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Alkaline Hydrolysis

A Story of Our First Year



MINNESOTA
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION



Windom, MN

A Story of Our First Year

- Why I choose this equipment
- How I prepared my space
- Feedback from families

The Basics: WHAT IS IT?

Our water-based process is an eco-friendly alternative to flame cremation and burial. It uses water instead of fire to return a body back to Mother Nature.

The scientific name for this process is *alkaline hydrolysis*. It is the same process that occurs as part of nature's course when a body is laid to rest in the soil. We use a combination of water flow, temperature, and alkalinity to accelerate nature's process.

The family receives an urn of final ash remains, about 20% more than they would receive from a flame cremation.

Why did I choose alkaline hydrolysis?

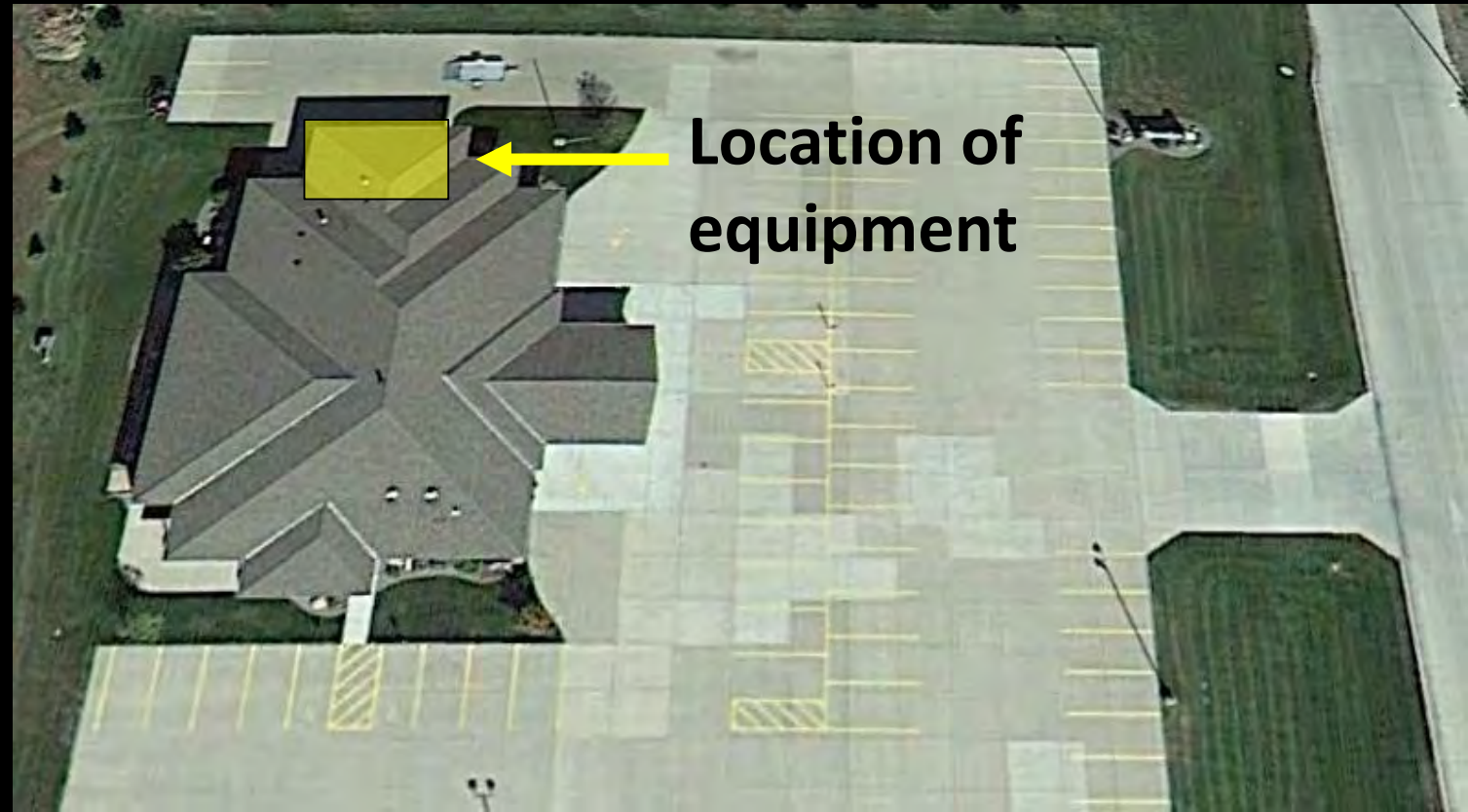
- I had been looking in to this since 2012! I've always felt that if everything we've been told is true, it's the future of the industry.
- I decided to make the investment in late 2014.

Why did I choose alkaline hydrolysis?

- It's greener: no emissions, uses less energy, and it's 1/10th of the carbon footprint
- It's a cleaner technology, and a nicer working environment for the operator
- It's safe for the environment
- I personally view it as a more gentle process, and I thought families would like to have this option available

Site Prep

- I got the specs from the manufacturer. I called references. I looked at how others installed the equipment. I decided I wanted my space to be a place where families could view the equipment room if desired.
- I originally planned to do a double garage conversion. I ultimately used a local contractor to convert my casket selection room into my hydrolysis room.



What is needed?

- A method to weigh the deceased
- Lift table (mine has a built in scale)
- Cremated remains processor (cremulator)
- Convection oven
- Regular hot water heater
- Alkali (sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide)
- Scale to weigh the alkali (or the machine can automatically weigh the deceased and add the alkali as a \$20,000 option)
- PPE & safety shower
- Fork lift, plumber, and electrician



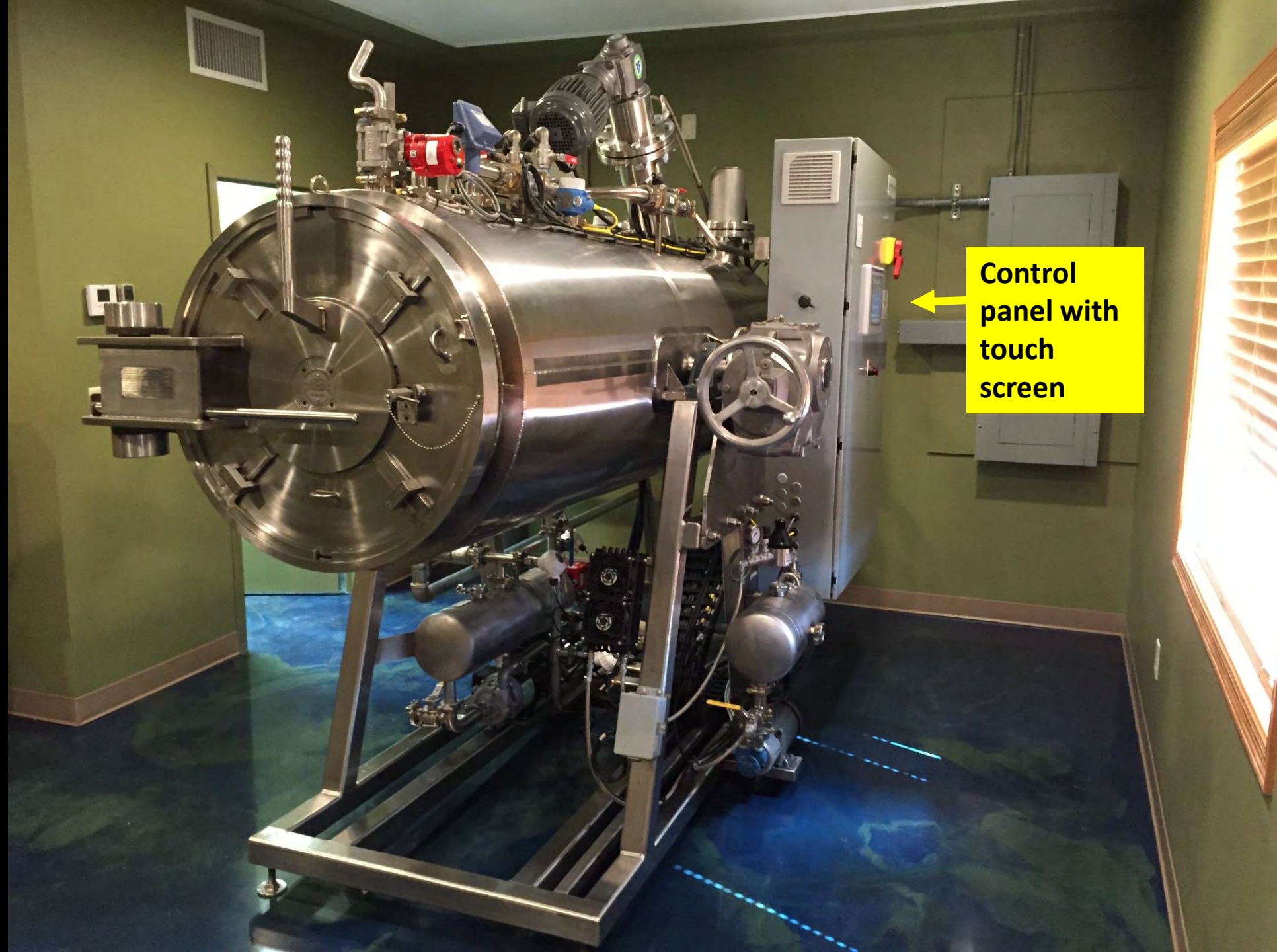
Joe Wilson
transported the
machine from
Danville, Indiana.

And now a video:

Installation video will play automatically in the PowerPoint version of this presentation. For the PDF version, please click the [YouTube link](#).



The
finished
room!



Control
panel with
touch
screen



**Horizontal
Loading
Position**

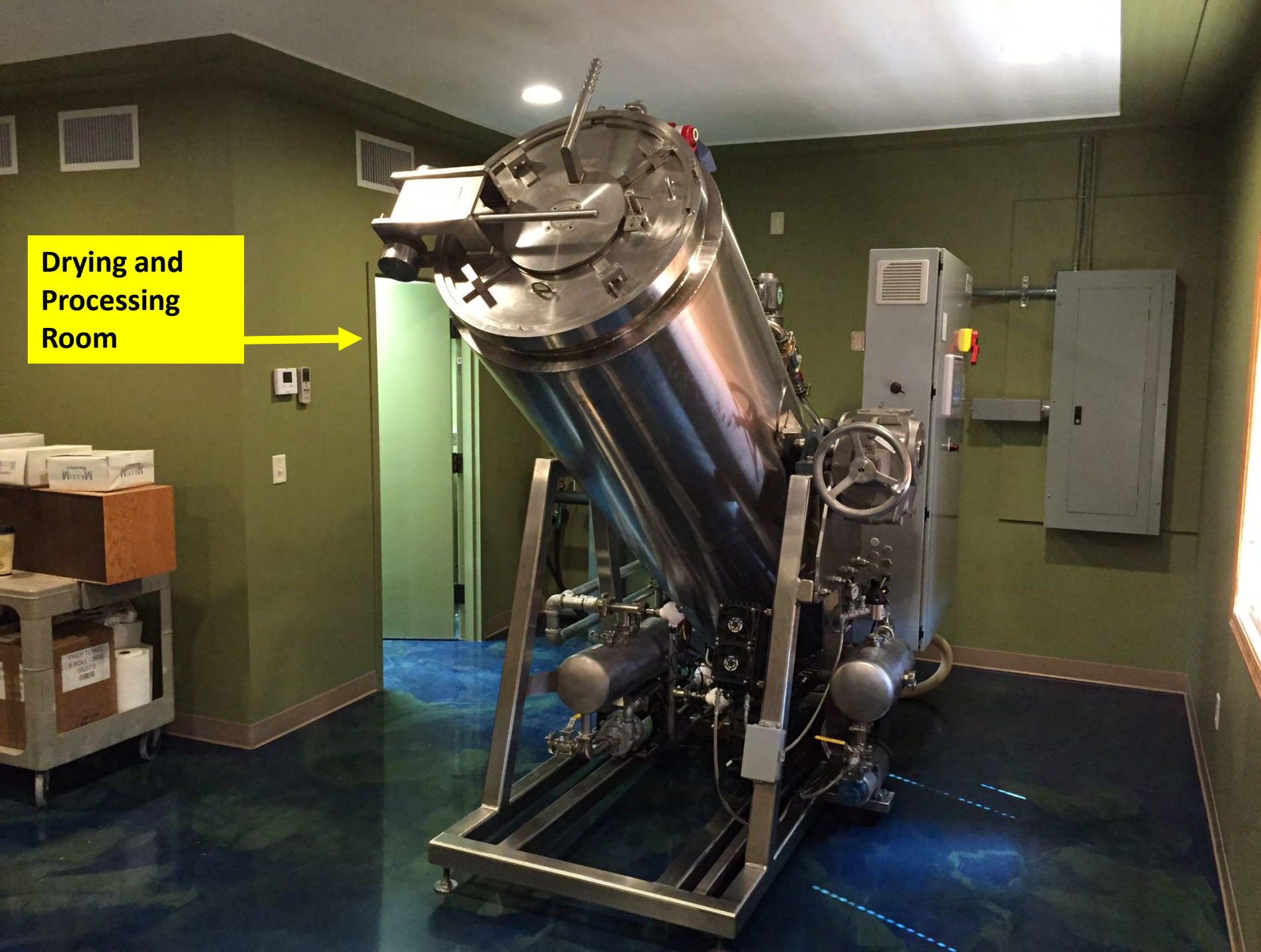
Angled Operating Position

WHY?

- Less water
- Less energy
- Less alkali
- Lower operating cost
- Lower maintenance (keeps liquid off seals!)
- Makes remains collection much easier
- Allows for very gentle water flow for fetal/infant cases



**Drying and
Processing
Room**



vent hood



processor



convection
oven



50lb bags of
alkali and
storage
container



safety shower
and eyewash
station

Plumbing:

- Lines out to dry cooler (this saves a lot of water usage!)
- Hot and cold water
- Drain line

CO2 pH
reduction



Vent Line





**cooling system
(dry cooler)**

**This can also be
located on the
roof of a
building.**





**Lift table
with tray
and rails**



Built-in
scale

**Looking through
the private viewing
area to the
equipment room.**



**Looking out
of the
equipment
room towards
the viewing
area**



New
signage



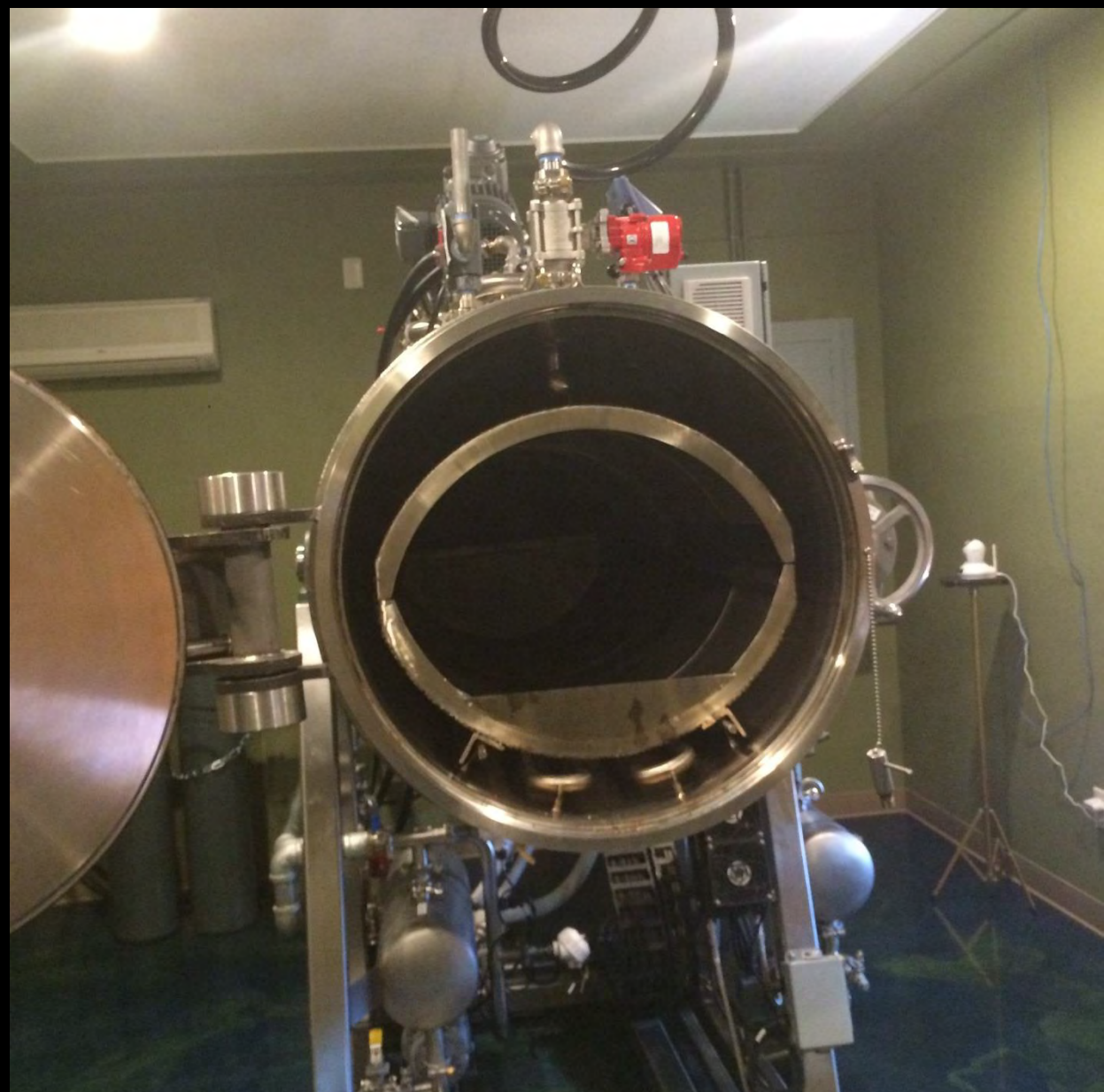
Stained
glass logo
made by
my father



Running a Cycle

Step-By-Step

- Open the door



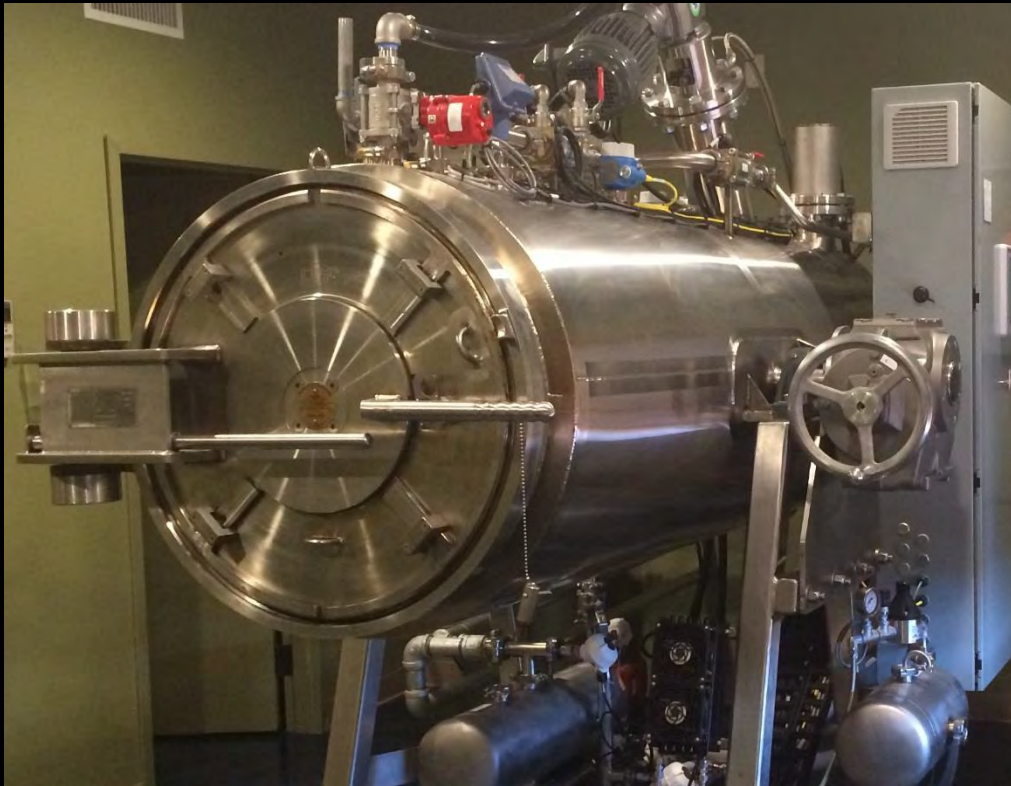
- Slide the basket out L
- Lower the lift table.



- Unlatch and remove the top lid.
- Pull gurney alongside, transfer the deceased.
- Replace lid, raise table, and slide the basket back into the system.



- Add the alkali.
- Close the door.
- Tilt to angled operating position



- Type in the body weight, press start.

Everything is automatic.


The cycle time can be programmed between 4-6 hours. I return 7-8 hours later (or at a convenient time) to collect and process the final remains.

len-Bradley PanelView P

BIO-RESPONSE SOLUTIONS LACANNE FAMILY FOODSERVICE

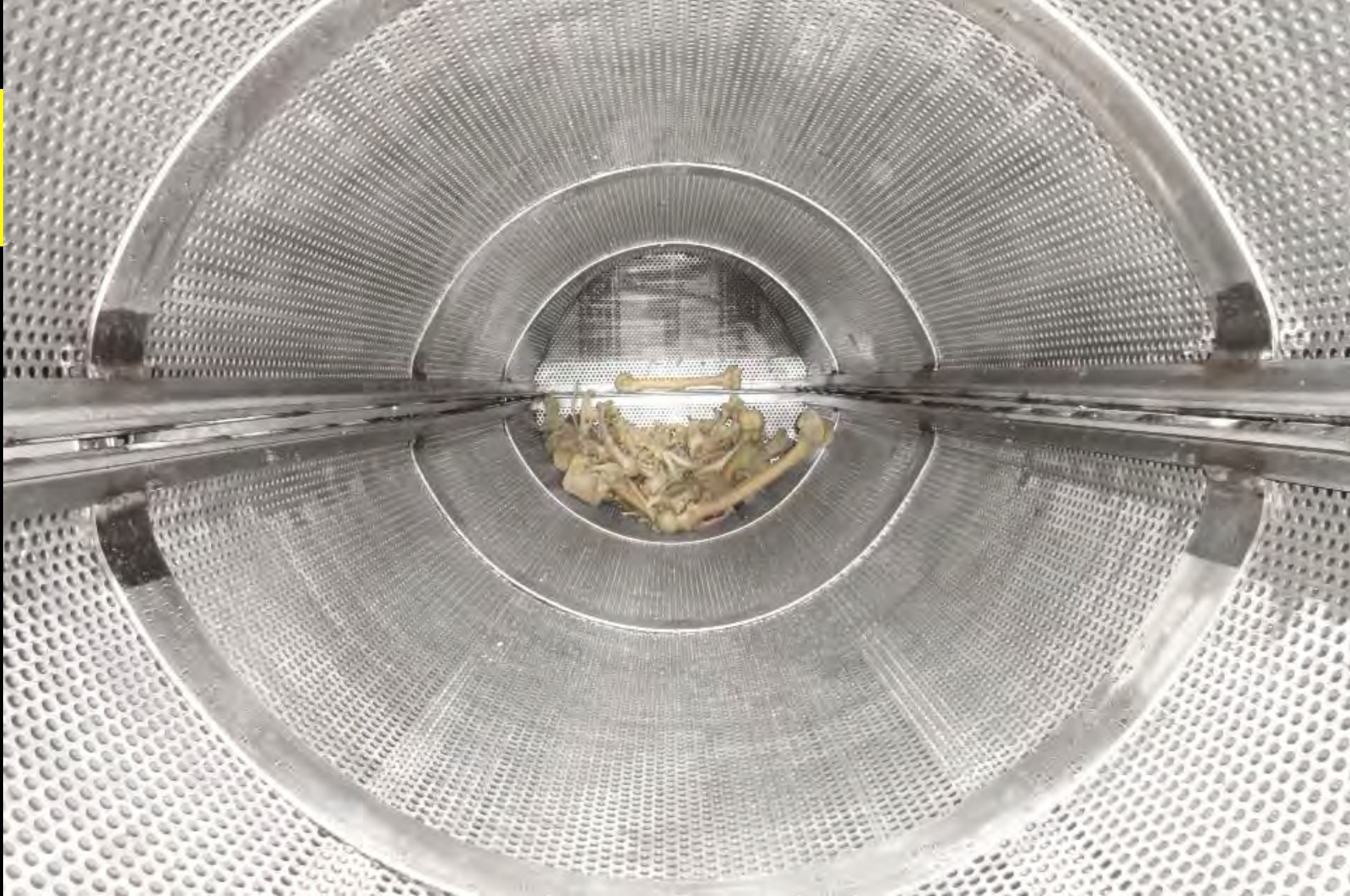
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STEP 1: ENTER BODY WEIGHT (1 to 499 lbs)

START PROCESS	ENTER BODY WEIGHT (1 to 499 lbs)			VESSEL WATER LEVEL (inches)	CALCULATED WATER LEVEL (inches)
PAUSE PROCESS	0			-0.56	26
LS01 VESSEL LOWERED	VESSEL PROCESS TEMPERATURE	VESSEL DISCHARGE TEMPERATURE	VESSEL COOLANT INLET TEMPERATURE	VESSEL COOLANT OUTLET TEMP	
LA01 VESSEL OVERFULL	63.6 °F	63.4 °F	62.7 °F	63.1 °F	
LA02 MINIMUM WATER LEVEL	PROCESS TIME ELAPSED (hours)	PROCESS PRESSURE (psi)	CO2 INJECTION PRESSURE (psi)	COOLANT RESERVOIR TEMPERATURE	
	0.00	-0.30	-0.3 of 0	63.9 °F	

MAIN SCREEN PROCESS SCREEN SETPOINT SCREEN MANUAL SCREEN MOTOR SCREEN ALARM HISTORY

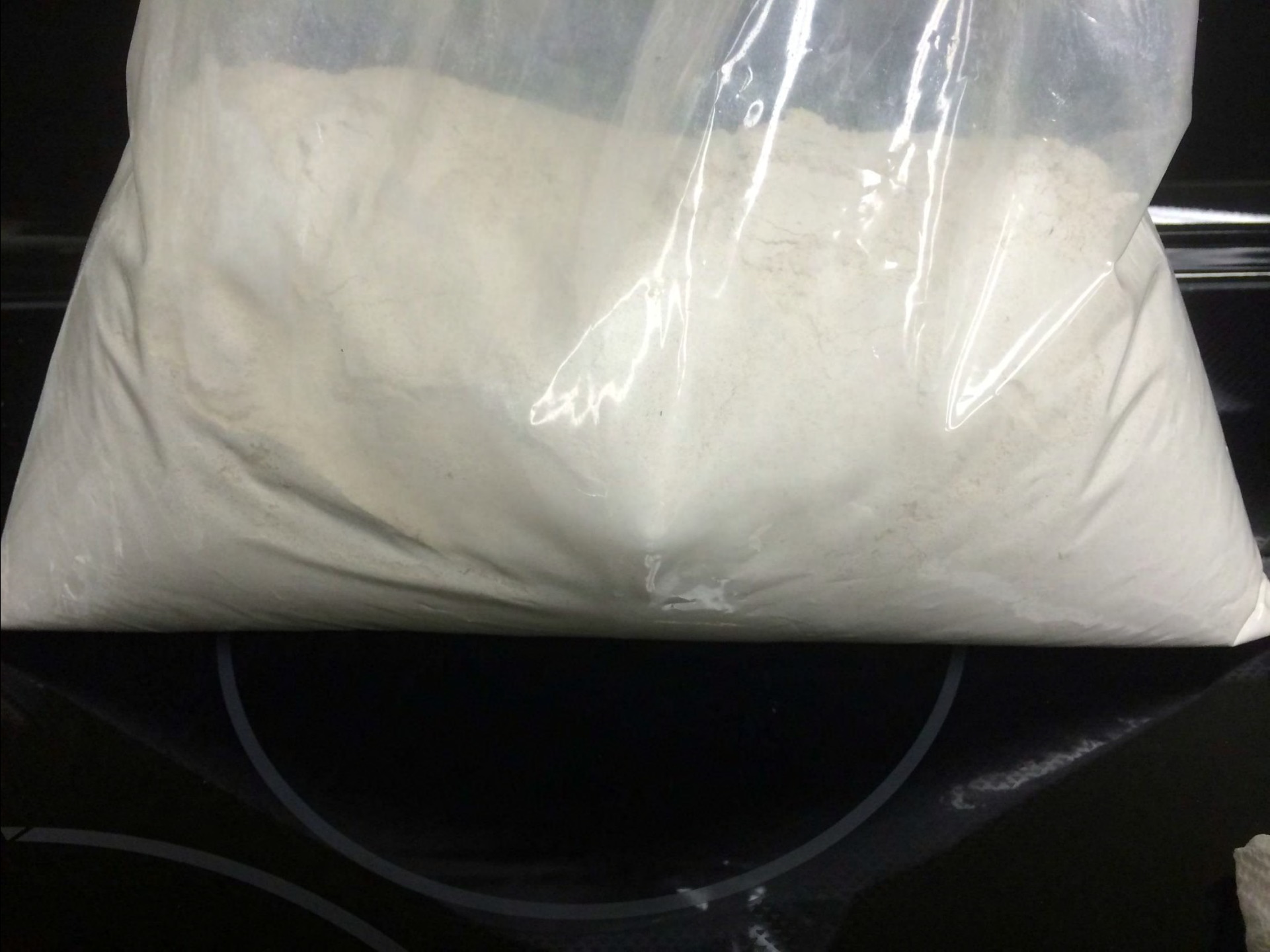
The remains are all together in the bottom of the basket.



- Transfer remains to drying trays (a scoop can be used)
- Place in the convection oven for drying
- Process dry remains to ash in the processor



**Final Ash
Remains**



Our Brochure for Families

- Available on our website
www.lacannefuneralhome.com
- Includes FAQ section
- Families have expressed that it answers almost all of their questions

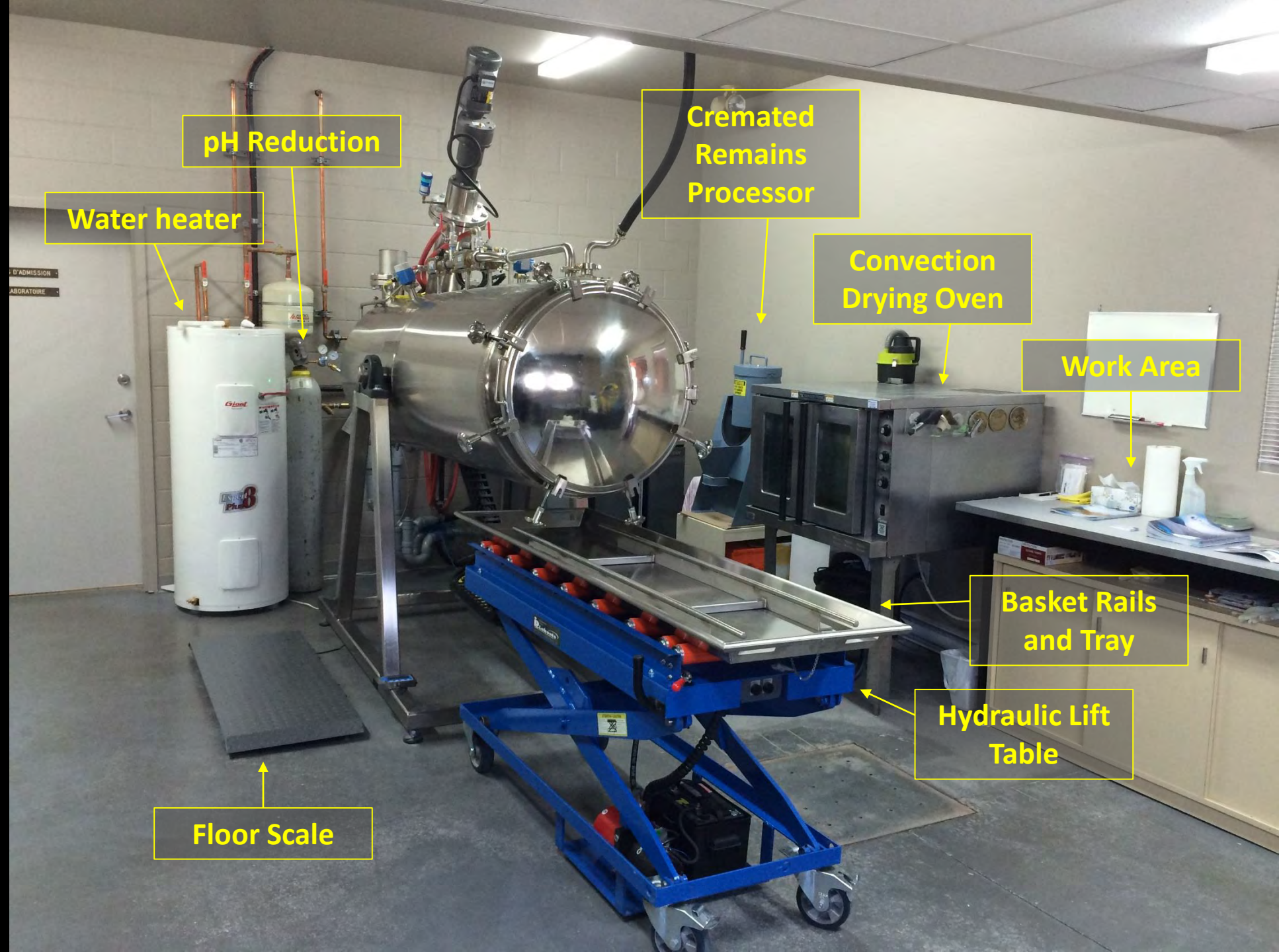


Feedback from Families

- They are grateful to have a choice.
- They prefer a process that does not use fire or flame.
- They prefer receiving up to 20% more of their loved ones' ashes returned to the family.
- They believe this to be a more gentle option than flame-based cremation.
- They value the decreased environmental impact of the process.

A Few Other Facilities

Funeral home install









Crematory with human and pet systems.



Convection Oven



Pet System



Human System

Crematory with AH system and retorts



Questions?

