

Chrysanthemums, carnations, roses, and lilies are appropriate flowers for a Russian funeral, usually in a restrained arrangement. A common Russian custom is to give an even number of flowers in a small bouquet, because odd numbers are associated with happy occasions.

Choose flowers with a quiet appearance

White flowers are a thoughtful choice because they convey sympathy without drawing attention away from the ceremony. Red flowers are also common in mourning, particularly red carnations, which are widely used at graves and memorials in Russia. Deep red roses can feel personal and affectionate.

These flowers are suitable options:

- White chrysanthemums for a simple, understated tribute
- Red or white carnations, often laid individually or in small bunches
- White lilies for a formal arrangement
- White or deep red roses to express affection and respect

You do not need to combine several kinds. A small bunch of one flower can be just as appropriate as a larger arrangement. If you know that the person who died loved a particular flower, choosing it can make the tribute feel more personal.

Count the stems

In Russia, an even number of flowers is traditionally brought to funerals and graves. For a small bouquet, two, four, or six stems follow this custom. Count the individual flowers rather than assuming that a ready made bunch

has the right number.

The distinction matters most for a small, easily counted bouquet. With a large wreath or dense arrangement, individual stems may not be visible. Customs also vary between families, so it is reasonable to ask someone close to the family if you are unsure.

Keep the presentation simple

A modest bouquet, wreath, or arrangement can all be suitable. Avoid bright wrapping and celebratory decorations. Plain paper or an unwrapped bunch keeps the focus on the flowers and makes them easier to place near a coffin or grave.

At a graveside, follow the lead of the family or the people conducting the service. Flowers may be placed on or beside the grave. If the service is in a church or another venue, check with the family or funeral staff about where flowers should go rather than placing them yourself.

A short sympathy message can accompany the flowers if you are sending them. Simple words of condolence are enough. If the family has asked for a particular tribute or has requested no flowers, respect that wish.

Questions about Russian funeral flowers

Are red flowers appropriate?

Yes. Red carnations and red roses are both seen at Russian funerals and graves. Red can express love and remembrance, so it need not be reserved for celebrations.

Can I bring an odd number of flowers?

For a small bouquet, it is better to choose an even number. An odd number is traditionally given for birthdays and other happy occasions, so an even count is the safer choice for a funeral.

Have a look at how to send flowers to Europe