

Yes, white chrysanthemums are an appropriate choice for many Japanese funerals. They are associated with mourning in Japan, though you should check the family's wishes and the funeral venue's delivery rules before sending them.

Choosing a suitable arrangement

White chrysanthemums are a traditional funeral flower in Japan. A simple arrangement in white or other subdued colors is a respectful choice. Funeral flowers may be displayed near the altar, so the family or funeral director may have a specific plan for their size and placement.

Tell the florist that the flowers are for a Japanese funeral and ask for a restrained funeral arrangement. If you know the ceremony is being held at a funeral hall, pass on any instructions the hall has given you. This helps the florist prepare something that fits the setting.

Avoid choosing flowers solely for their celebratory appearance. Bright red flowers, for example, may feel out of place at a funeral. If you are unsure about the design, a mostly white arrangement is a straightforward option.

Checking before you send

Some families welcome flowers, while others ask guests not to send them. Their wishes matter more than a general custom. Check the funeral notice first, or ask a relative, contact person, or funeral director if no instructions are available.

Before placing an order, confirm these details:

- The full name of the deceased and the name under which the service is listed.

- The venue address, delivery date, and the hours during which flowers can be accepted.
- Any restrictions on flowers, arrangement size, or outside deliveries.
- How your name should appear on the card or identification label.

Funeral halls may coordinate floral displays and may not accept an arrangement without prior notice. Calling ahead can also prevent flowers from arriving after the service or being delivered to the wrong room.

If flowers are not accepted at the venue, do not assume the family wants them sent to a home instead. Ask first. They may prefer privacy or have requested no floral tributes at all.

A short message of sympathy is enough. You can write, “Please accept my condolences,” followed by your name. If you are sending flowers on behalf of a group, include the group’s name so the family knows who sent them.

Questions about sending funeral flowers

Can I send white chrysanthemums if I am not Japanese?

Yes. Choosing a familiar funeral flower and following the family’s instructions are considerate ways to show sympathy. You do not need to be Japanese to send an appropriate floral tribute.

Should I send the flowers to the funeral hall or the family home?

Send them to the location specified in the funeral notice or confirmed by the family’s contact person. Check with the venue before arranging delivery, and ask before sending flowers to a private home.

What if the family has requested no flowers?

Respect the request and do not send an arrangement. A brief condolence message is another way to express your sympathy, provided the family has given a suitable way to contact them.

Have a look at seasonal flowers guide