Full-Thickness Skin Procurement Treatment

Jack Adams, CFSP, MBIE, a world-renowned expert on embalming techniques, has created the following treatment protocol to guide funeral service professionals in embalming remains where full-thickness skin has been recovered:

1. Pretreat all raw tissue. Help will be necessary to turn over remains or place remains on plastic base and webril cauterant pack (basic Dryene or a preservative gel made stronger by adding Dryene). If you add phenol product to gel, keep it a gel consistency, not liquid. Add just enough to strengthen but remain a gel.
2. Turn body face side up and embalm with pack in place on raw tissue. This pack will help dry and embalm tissue while embalming.
3. Following embalming, turn over body (help needed) remove initial pack and plastic and check tissue.
4. Place shrink wrap under body (2 to 3 pieces about 6 feet long) side to side with equal over hang on each side and cover wrap with super absorbent sheet (similar to high quality diaper-like material).
5. Apply super gel (preservative gel such as Syn Gel with phenol-Basic Dryene added) to all raw tissue.
6. Sprinkle V-P, a high absorbent preservative compound, over sheet and then place treated back down on sheet and shrink wrap base.
7. Bring shrink wrap up both side walls and completely encapsulate all raw tissue and body trunk. This same process can be used for all raw tissue from trauma, tumors, ulcers or tissue donation.
8. Place treated wrapped remains in unionall (insurance) and place more absorbent material down each sidewall and buttocks.

If raw tissue is not treated and made leak proof with shrink wrap, the unionall will just fill with fluids that will make their way outside the unionall and inside the casket. Placing a remains into a unionall doesn't stop leakage or odors from surfacing, which can cause unpleasant viewing experiences.

Shrink wrap is the industrial strength product used in trucking for wrapping pallets etc. It has super qualities of strength while leak-proofing and stopping all odors. Saran wrap doesn't have the strength or size for the job. The 8" rolls are good for small areas of raw tissue but too small for backs. Sam's club, Casco, restaurant supply outlets, and just doing a shrink wrap search on Google will give you options for purchasing. Also, your funeral service professionals suppliers will carry this type of product.

All bodies regardless of condition need to be made leakproof and sealed to prevent odors. Treating and sealing all areas of raw tissue and then placing in final outer plastic garments will put an end to all these viewing problems that potentially could be causes for mental anguish litigation.