

Gassing Installations at Auschwitz and Birkenau

Installation	Location	Operation Begins	Physical Layout	Interesting Facts	Dismantled
Block 11	Auschwitz I	September 3-5, 1941 *Last Aug. 1941 2-3 experiments	basement rooms in Block 11 frequently referred to as a detention cell	first experimental mass gassing with Zyklon B 600 Soviet POWs and 250 sick Polish prisoners Idea to use Zyklon B: <i>Hauptsturmführer</i> Fritsch	discontinued use in Fall 1941
Crematorium I	Auschwitz I	Fall 1941 – Dec. 1942	converted mortuary in camp crematorium into a gas chamber when gassing moved to Birkenau Krema I converted to SS air-raid shelter	Only gas chamber used which is still intact - though rebuilt by the Soviets burning capacity 340 per day	discontinued gassing in Dec. 1942 Operated as crematorium until July 1943 though rebuilt
Bunker I (Little Red House)	Birkenau	March 1942	converted farm house with cremation pits located nearby undressing barracks nearby Red Cross truck for Zyklon B	Zyklon B poured in through shuttered holes made in walls. No forced ventilation so SS and Sonderkommando wear gas masks.	shut down and dismantled in Spring 1943
Bunker II (Little White House)	Birkenau	June 1942 – Spring 1943 May 1944 - Nov. 1944	converted farm house slightly bigger than Bunker I. mass burial pits and later cremation pits located nearby undressing barracks nearby Red Cross truck for Zyklon B	July 17, 1942 Himmler witnessed the processing of an entire transport through Bunker II. No forced ventilation so SS and Sonderkommando wear gas masks.	shut down in Spring 1943 but left intact. Reactivated in May 1944 to handle influx of Hungarian Jews Dismantled in Nov. 1944 when gassings stopped

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Crematorium II	Birkenau	March 31, 1943 - Nov. 1 or 2, 1944	<p>Commissioned by SS - furnaces designed by J.A. Topf and Sons</p> <p>Underground: 1 undressing room 1 gas chamber which was later divided in two by a wall. Both rooms were mechanically ventilated. Gas chamber was mocked as a shower room</p> <p>*columns in gas chamber arranged in straight line for gas distribution Unique to Krema II</p> <p>Above Ground: Five furnace crematorium with 3 retorts each – all funneled through 1 chimney</p>	<p>peephole in door was sometimes broken out by victims so SS covered with metal grating and later with metal plate</p> <p>women's hair was dried in the attic</p> <p>room to right of entrance was a dissecting room *Dr. Nyiszli</p> <p>estimated capacity 1,440 in 24 hours</p>	dismantling began Nov. 25, 1944
Crematorium III	Birkenau	June 25 or 26, 1943 - Nov. 1 or 2, 1944	<p>Commissioned by SS - furnaces designed by J.A. Topf and Sons</p> <p>Underground: 1 undressing room 1 gas chamber which was later divided in two by a wall. Both rooms were mechanically ventilated. Gas chamber was mocked as a shower room</p> <p>*columns in gas chamber arranged in a square (4 openings) for gas distribution Unique to Krema III</p> <p>Above Ground: Five furnace crematorium with 3 retorts each – all funneled through 1 chimney</p>	<p>peephole in door was sometimes broken out by victims so SS covered with metal grating and later with metal plate</p> <p>women's hair dried in attic</p> <p>room to right of entrance housed melting pot for prisoners gold teeth</p> <p>estimated capacity 1,440 in 24 hours</p>	dismantling began Dec. 1, 1944

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Crematorium IV	Birkenau	March 22, 1943	<p>Commissioned by SS – furnaces designed by J.A. Topf and Sons</p> <p>Entire structure above ground 3 gas chambers of varying sizes with no forced ventilation and no dummy shower heads</p> <p>1 furnace with 8 retorts used 2 chimneys</p> <p>Largest gas chamber had heat stove to expedite gassing process</p>	<p>Sonderkommando lived in the building w/ kitchen</p> <p>estimated capacity of 768 in 24 hours</p> <p>Destroyed in revolt led by the Sonderkommando on October 7, 1944</p>	<p>partially destroyed by revolt on Oct. 7, 1944</p> <p>remains dismantled in Fall 1944</p>
Crematorium V	Birkenau	April 4, 1943	<p>Commissioned by SS – furnaces designed by J.A. Topf and Sons</p> <p>Entire structure above ground 3 gas chambers of varying sizes with no forced ventilation and no dummy shower heads</p> <p>1 furnace with 8 retorts used 2 chimneys</p> <p>largest gas chamber had heat stove to expedite gassing process</p>	<p>Sonderkommando lived in the building w/ kitchen</p> <p>estimated capacity of 768 in 24 hours</p> <p>pieces of the furnace were recovered by the Soviets due to the haste with which the Nazis evacuated</p>	<p>blow up by SS Jan. 26, 1944- 1 day before liberation</p>
			<p>1943 Crematoria Capacity estimated at 4,416 persons per day</p> <p>Could nearly double capacity at peak use – Daily average less than 1,000</p>		