



CLEANING TIPS

Spirit With Sparkle Jewellery

Cleaning Tip 1.

Remove all Jewellery before showering or cleaning. Soap can cause a film to form, making it appear dull and dingy. Jewellery was made to be worn not lived in.

Cleaning Tip 2.

To clean your Jewellery at home, there are many available commercial cleaners that can be purchased at Jewellery stores. Always remember to read the instructions on the commercial cleaners before you attempt cleaning. If you're would rather make and mix your own cleaner, I use a teaspoon of Cloudy Ammonia, a teaspoon of dish washing liquid and 500mls warm water. The hot tip is to solution cleaning is to soak the Jewellery for as long as possible. This will loosen any built up material that is trapped in and around the piece. Some gems must never be put in cleaners. Always ask your Jeweller.

Cleaning Tip 3.

For certain Jewellery, an ultrasonic vibrating cleaner may be appropriate, but always read the instructions first. Ultrasonic vibrating machines can loosen or damage precious gemstones while cleaning the Jewellery, so be careful. If you have questions, please give us a call. Also never ultrasonic different metals at the same time, silver can tarnish gold if cleaned together.

Cleaning Tip 4.

Having a hard time removing grease, grime, paint or any other substance? Try using plain rubbing alcohol, soak then clean normally should do the trick.

Cleaning Tip 5.

Jewellery in bleach is a recipe for disaster. This solution will literally destroy your Jewellery. Bleach will react to the metal, causing it to become very brittle. To do an emergency clean, use soap and water.

Cleaning Tip 6.

Polish silver or gold with a Jewellery polishing cloth for best results. You can use a svelte or an old diaper, but the professional cloths are the best. Use of tissue or paper towels can cause scratches because of fibres in these products. Always rinse off with water to finish as so residue may remain and stain your clothing.

Cleaning Tip 7.

An old toothbrush is probably one of the oldest cleaning tips in the book. Make sure that you use an old, soft bristle brush, because the hard bristle can loosen gemstones from their settings. Lightly brush at hard to reach areas with the brush while frequently applying cleaning solution. Never use the brush to remove caked on dirt or grime because sometimes the dirt is holding the gemstone into place, especially if the setting is worn or weak. Old toothbrushes are also great for cleaning watchbands, but remember to stay away from the watch case/movement, as it will develop rust - a killer of quartz or mechanical movements.

Cleaning Tip 8.

Be careful of cleaning or polishing hollow or tubular Jewellery. Their thickness is very thin

and unstable for polishing. Be very careful when rubbing cleaning or polishing solutions into them because the slightest pressure can dent or collapse the metal.

Cleaning Tip 9.

Many gemstones are enhanced with other substances and they have to be handled with care. It's best to read all cleaning solution labels before cleaning, also use care when directly cleaning gemstones. Cleaning solutions will lose power over time and must be repurchased. If unsure about which solutions to use, contact us or your local Jewellery and they will be able to walk you through it.

Cleaning Tip 10.

Be careful of cleaning costume or just for fun jewellery as it's very sensitive to any cleaning solutions. These pieces of Jewellery are usually made of base metal (base or silver) with a gold layer over or absorbed into it. This layer is not made for abrasive cleaning or prolonged wear. These pieces are only for show or special occasions and should be slightly cleaned and carefully put away.

Cleaning Tip 11.

When self cleaning Jewellery always use this handy visual checklist first: check to see if there are any loose or damaged gemstones; cracked or broken metal; bent or warped claws/tips; discoloured or pitting metal. Sounds like lots to go through but Jewellery has the same mental checklist when cleaning and inspecting.

Cleaning Tip 12.

Always use warm not HOT water. Cleaning agents can be absorbed and react to very hot water causing Jewellery to discolour. Sterling silver is especially sensitive to hot water and can Jewellery in a heartbeat. Fires or smoke damage can cause Jewellery to discolour. Many customers come into our centres, distraught over the discoloration of their Jewellery. Not to worry though - a careful polishing (with a buffing machine) or a special Jewellery tarnish remover can bring it back to life.

Cleaning Tip 13.

Never clean any Jewellery that is badly damaged, abrasive, cracked or broken. As with any other item broken our badly scratched items can exacerbate or worsen the problem. Also, if you see that your items are damaged while you are wearing them it only makes sense to remove and have them looked at as soon as possible.

Cleaning Tip 14.

Just like anything else, it is a very good idea to have all items for cleaning be checked and inspected for any possible problems or concerns. A Jewellery inspection allows your Jeweller an opportunity to professionally clean and inspect wear areas that can lead to breakage, abrasion or god forbid a lost gemstone! Treat your Jewellery like your health and it will take care of you - emotionally and financially. I usually suggest just before anniversaries if you're married, otherwise birthdays, we all have them.

Cleaning Tip 15.

When using a polishing cloth try to stay away the gemstones unless they are the major colours of the flag - red (ruby) white (diamond) blue (sapphire). Some gemstones can have their facets/angles polished off or rubbed out by hard polishing. One good example is tanzanite; any polishing on the gemstone can rub out or dull its brilliance.