

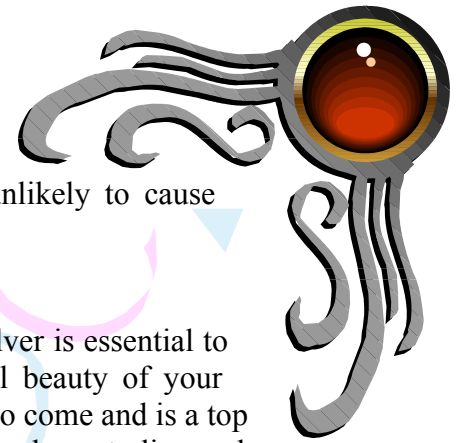
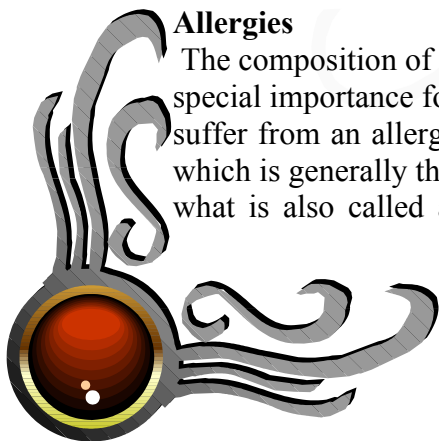


Cleaning Silver

Everyone knows how beautiful sterling silver is and how durable it is, that's one of the reasons it's such a popular choice. Throughout history it has been called the Queen of Metals and has been used ever since people discovered its versatility centuries ago. It is often associated with the sea, moon and lunar goddesses. Silver has one of the highest reflectivities of any metal, giving it unmatched brilliance and making it perfect for jewellery designs. Silver also has extremely high electrical conductivity and thermal conductivity. It is most often used for jewellery and household accessories because of its combination of beauty and durability: attractiveness and toughness. Sterling Silver is the benchmark, the recognised standard for quality Silver. It is often thought of as pure silver, when it is actually a silver alloy containing 925 parts silver to 75 of copper (the 75 parts can be any metal such as germanium, zinc or platinum but is most usually copper). Sterling silver is about twice as strong as pure silver. Sterling silver sold in the UK must be marked with a stamp (hallmarked) on the bottom of the piece, if it is over 7.78 grams weight. This is a safeguard to purchasers, to show that it has been independently tested for purity. You can buy sterling silver jewellery at www.handcraftedindiansilver.com

Allergies

The composition of sterling silver is of special importance for those people who suffer from an allergy against nickel, which is generally the real reason behind what is also called a 'metal allergy'.



Sterling Silver is unlikely to cause allergic reactions.

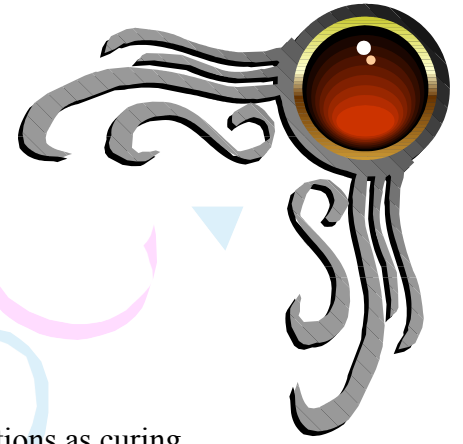
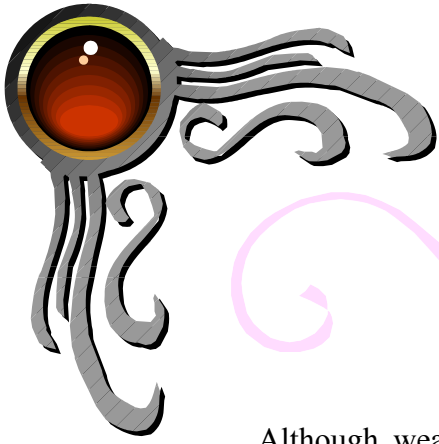
Cleaning

Cleaning sterling silver is essential to preserve the natural beauty of your jewellery for years to come and is a top priority for those who love sterling and wear it often. Sterling silver is easy to maintain and will last a lifetime with proper care but can tarnish if not cared for. This is not a defect, but the result of a natural chemical process that occurs when sterling silver is exposed to chemicals in the air. Cleaning sterling silver can take time, that is why many pieces have different kinds of anti-tarnish finishes including a flash overlay of pure silver, waxes, proprietary coatings and rhodium plating. Although sterling silver is harder and more scratch resistant than fine (pure) silver, it is still a soft metal and subject to scratches, dents and bending.

If possible, it is best to look after your sterling silver jewellery right from the start and keep it from tarnishing. This can be done by wearing it often, as the skin oils help to protect it from the atmosphere and also help to develop that beautiful lustre or patina that develops best with age and loving wearing.

When putting away, keep it in a separate bag, preferably a food grade plastic bag that you can keep the air out of. You can also purchase special jewellery bags. Never let your silver jewellery rattle around in a box with other pieces – it will become scratched.





Although wearing your silver jewellery often is the best way to prevent tarnish from building up, regular cleaning of all your silver items will prevent tarnish and keep them bright and sparkling. For daily cleaning use a simple non-abrasive jewellery polishing cloth that is impregnated with special jewellery cleaner. It is a good idea to keep a separate cleaning cloth for silver. Tarnish is easily removed when first noticed (generally a yellowish tint) but will become more difficult to remove as it turns brown and eventually black, requiring professional cleaning and/or harsher chemicals that can harm your jewellery.

Avoid exposing your sterling silver to direct sunlight, household chemicals including chlorine and ammonia, when cleaning or when swimming in chlorinated water, as these chemicals can damage silver. Avoid exposing sterling silver to hair products, perfumes, cosmetics, perspiration, rubber, wool, latex and strong jewellery cleaning solutions.

Cleaning heavily tarnished silver is the subject of as many home

recipes and concoctions as curing the common cold. Dirt left over from previous cleaning can scratch the surface. You can purchase a professional jewellery polishing cloth that is treated with special chemicals to remove tarnish and restore shine. The inside rouge is for cleaning off the dull residue and the outside cloth for buffing. Never use tissues or paper towels for cleaning silver. Cleaning silver beaded jewellery or items embellished with crystals or enamelled beads or any other beads treated with coatings needs special care. Your professional jeweller should be able to provide you with silver-cleaning materials and directions for their proper use. Using toothpaste and a toothbrush for cleaning is not recommended as this will scratch the metal surface. DO NOT use silver cleaning LIQUID with the pieces that contain natural stones (Onyx or Mother of Pearl) or Cubic Zirconium, as the liquid will damage the stones. For jewellery that has grease or fatty residue, a professional steam cleaning may be in order.

