

Kate Robbins Handcrafted Jewelry

Gem Care

How do I care for my piece and keep it clean?

As with any fine jewelry, avoid direct use of cosmetics, perfumes, and hair care items on your jewelry. Read directions on jewelry cleaners to make sure they are safe for all semi-precious stones, especially pearls.

Sterling Silver (.925) or Fine Silver (.999)

Silver Cloth: Polish with a silver cloth. To keep your jewelry chain intact while cleaning, don't pull the chain through the polishing cloth. Instead, rub the chain against the cloth.

Jewelry Cleaner: Follow directions on label. Some cleaners will leave silver looking dull. Use the silver cloth method above, to bring back the shiny, new look.

Oxidized (Gray/Black Antiqued) Silver

To maintain the black color of oxidized silver, avoid wearing these pieces in the shower, or swimming in them. Water and wear will fade the black to an antiqued silver look over time.

Gold

Clean by gently rubbing with a soft cloth, or using jewelry cleaner. Chlorine can damage gold over a period of time, so avoid swimming in these pieces.

Crystals

Crystals can dull from body oils and cosmetics after prolonged wear. Clean with jewelry cleaner to return them to their original sparkle.

Pearls and Other Semi-Precious Stones

Clean with mild, soapy water only. Other cleaners may damage the surface of your stones and will definitely damage pearls.

Gem Care - Looking After Your Gemstones & Jewelry

Are you paying enough attention to the care of your precious gemstones and jewelry? Unfortunately, most people overlook proper care of their jewelry, resulting in unnecessary devaluation. While specific cleaning techniques exist for different gemstone varieties, some basic tips include:

For its protection, always remove your jewelry when engaging in activities where there is a risk of impact or exposure to chemicals (e.g. sports or housework). If you cannot remove your rings when using strong cleaning products (i.e. Ammonia based), protect your jewelry (and your skin) by wearing rubber gloves. While rings and bracelets are most affected by daily wear, earrings, necklaces and even pendants are subject to chemical damage, especially if worn while make-up, fragrances and hair products are applied.

Try not to remove your jewelry by pulling on their gemstones. Apart from exposing the stones to sweat, oil and dirt, you also risk loosening the gemstones in their settings. Always check for loose gemstones and clasps before wearing your jewelry.

To avoid your gemstones and metal jewelry scratching each other, never store your jewelry in piles. Alternatively, store them in separate sections of a jewelry box or wrap them separately in velvet, paper or silk. Silver can be kept in a sealed plastic bag which will help to prevent tarnishing.

The safest method of cleaning most jewelry is to use a mild warm soapy water solution and a soft brush, patting dry with a soft cloth.

All gemstones should be protected from sharp blows, harsh chemicals, and extreme temperatures. Some particularly sensitive gemstones (turquoise, opals, and even chalcedony) should even be kept away from strong light sources, as such exposure may cause color fading. Gemstones should be stored in a dry, safe place.