



AT HOME
JEWELRY CLEANING
GUIDE

FOR MULTIPLE JEWELRY TYPES



WELCOME

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Hi , I'm Krista, an architect, metalsmith, design lover, decluttering enthusiast and mom. As a designer, I'm constantly thinking about why people choose, purchase, and wear the jewelry that they do. More often than not, we buy jewelry to remind ourselves of a place or a person that we love, to symbolize or mark a significant life event, or to celebrate an achievement or a transition that we don't want to let go of. We are seeking to mark a moment and to make that moment permanent through a piece of jewelry.

People buy jewelry to keep memories alive, and here are a few simple ways to keep those memories sparkling.

I've put this cleaning guide together to help you freshen up your pieces with simple, natural, and affordable items that you likely already have around the house. Give these a try to help keep those important moments shining bright!

Krista Knickerbocker

THE METHODS



STERLING SILVER

Your piece will be submerged in a homemade cleaning solution.



STERLING + STONES

You will clean your piece with a soft brush to avoid stones.



DIAMOND RING

You will submerge your ring and use a soft cloth.



PLATED + VERMEIL

Your piece will be submerged in a homemade cleaning solution.



COPPER

You will use an abrasive paste and rub with your hands or a brush.



QUICK TIP

To help you prevent tarnish!

STERLING SILVER | SUBMERGED

YOU WILL NEED

Hot or warm water
Baking Soda
Salt
Aluminum foil
A clean, dry, soft cloth

STEP 01

Line your glass bowl with aluminum foil. Add 1 tablespoon of baking soda, and 1 table spoon of salt.

STEP 02

Add your tarnished sterling silver jewelry. Take care to avoid any stones with this method. Pour about 1 cup of hot (almost boiling) water into the bowl and stir gently.

STEP 03

Let sit for approximately 20 minutes. You can use a soft brush (like a baby toothbrush) to gently work the solution into any details if necessary.

STEP 04

Remove from the bowl, rinse with water, let air dry or use a soft, lint free cloth to dry your pieces.



BEFORE



AFTER

STERLING SILVER | WITH STONES

YOU WILL NEED

Toothpaste (white paste, not gel)
A soft brush
A clean, dry cloth

NOTE:

This is a great method for cleaning pieces that have a stone that you want to avoid. It works best with silver that is slightly matte or textured, not high polish.

STEP 01

Put a small amount of white toothpaste (not gel) onto a baby toothbrush or soft cosmetic brush. I purchased both of these at the dollar store, and prefer the finger-tip baby toothbrush for the added control.

STEP 02

Work the toothpaste over the tarnished surface, avoiding any stones. I used my fingers and a small amount of toothpaste to clean the ear wire.

STEP 03

Rinse and let dry!



BEFORE

AFTER

DIAMOND RING

YOU WILL NEED

Hot water
Dish Soap
A soft brush or toothbrush
A clean, dry rag

STEP 01

Add very hot water to a glass or ceramic bowl or jar. Slowly add dish soap while stirring until bubbles start to form (blue Dawn is preferred to scented, but I used what I had!).

STEP 02

Soak your ring in the hot soapy water for 15-20 minutes.

STEP 03

After the soaking period, use a very soft brush (i'm using this dollar store makeup brush) to work the soapy water into the facets of the ring, front and back.

STEP 04

Let dry and enjoy the sparkle!



BEFORE

AFTER

(IT'S HARD TO SEE IN PHOTOS, BUT TRY IT OUT, THE SPARKLE IS REAL!)

PLATED METALS + VERMEIL

YOU WILL NEED

Dish Soap
Salt
Hot Water
A clean, dry cloth

STEP 01

Add 1 cup of hot water, one tablespoon of salt, and 1 tablespoon of dish soap to a bowl. Stir together well.

STEP 02

Add your plated and vermeil jewelry to soapy, salty water and let it sit for 20 minutes.

STEP 03

Remove, rinse with clean water, and let air dry or dry with a very soft, microfiber cloth. You don't want to use anything abrasive on these pieces. They should clean up nicely!



BEFORE

AFTER

COPPER

YOU WILL NEED

Salt
Vinegar
A soft brush or q-tip
A clean, dry cloth

STEP 01

Create a paste by mixing equal parts of vinegar and salt. The finer the salt, the less abrasive the paste will be (and the less likely it will be to scratch your pieces).

STEP 02

Rub the paste onto your tarnished copper pieces with a soft brush or with your fingers.

STEP 03

Rinse with warm water and dry with a soft cloth. I only had tarnished copper scraps to test this method with, but the results were convincing!



BEFORE

AFTER

QUICK TIP



TO AVOID TARNISH

While it's great to have some tricks up our sleeves to keep our jewelry looking as sparkling as it did the day we got it, it's even *better* to never have to clean it in the first place! While all jewelry needs some level of regular cleaning, you can help keep tarnish away by stashing a couple of pieces of chalk in your jewelry storage drawer or box. This will help to absorb moisture and slow the tarnishing process.

There are also anti-tarnish strips and pads that are sold online, and those are a great option too, but if you have chalk laying around give this alternative a try!

Now that you have your favorite jewelry pieces sparkling clean, and now that you have these accessible and natural methods to keep them looking great for years to come, [CLICK HERE](#) to explore some of the bestselling pieces from my modern, handmade jewelry collection.

I craft each piece to last, and would be honored to show up in any curated jewelry collection!



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