

TIPS ON CARING FOR PEARLS:

Having your pearls strung: It is not uncommon for pearl necklaces to stretch with time which will weaken and soil the string. It is recommended that they be re-strung once a year - depending on how often the necklace is worn.

Cleaning your pearls: Keep in mind the following tips when cleaning your pearls:

- Do not use commercial jewelry cleaners on pearls unless it is a product made specifically for pearls. Ammonia will deteriorate pearls.
- Never use an ultrasonic cleaner.
- Never steam clean pearls. Heat is harmful.
- Do not use detergents, bleaches, powdered cleansers, baking soda, or ammonia based cleaners.
- Do not use scouring pads, toothbrushes, or abrasive materials to clean pearls. They can scratch the surface. If there is a piece of dirt that cannot be rubbed off with a soft cloth, try to remove it with your fingernail.

To clean and wash pearls if they become very dirty:

- Wipe off pearls after wearing with a soft cloth or chamois which can either be dry or damp. This will prevent the dirt from accumulating and keeps perspiration, which is slightly acidic, from eating away at the pearl nacre.
- They can be washed in water and a mild soap such as Ivory or Lux liquids (some soaps, like Dawn, can damage pearls) and cleaned with a soft cloth. Pay attention to the areas around the drill holes where dirt may tend to collect. After washing them, lay the pearls flat in a moist kitchen towel to dry. After the towel is dry, the pearls should be dry. Do not wear pearls when the string is wet. Wet strings can stretch easily and attract dirt which will be difficult to remove. Do not hang pearls to dry as this can also stretch the string.

Miscellaneous tips:

- Remove pearls when applying cosmetics, hair sprays and perfume. The chemicals contained in these products are harmful to pearls.
- Remove pearls when showering or swimming. Water will eventually weaken the string and soap and chlorine will damage the pearls.
- Avoid wearing pearl necklaces with rough fabrics such as Shetland wool - it can scratch the pearls
- Store pearls in a jewelry bag or pouch for optimal protection.