

## How to Clean Cubic Zirconia

Although they are not real diamonds, cubic zirconia stones possess many of the same traits of more valuable gems. While diamonds are usually harder, cubic zirconia stones rate nearly as high on the hardness scale and sparkle almost as much. There are many ways to keep your cubic zirconia jewelry clean. Here are some tips for how to clean your cubic zirconia.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Check your jewelry for loose cubic zirconia stones, damaged prongs or other imperfections. The cleaning process can cause loose stones to fall out or damaged prongs to break. If you notice anything wrong with your jewelry, skip the cleaning process and take the cubic zirconia pieces to your local jeweler.
- 2 Make a cleaning solution from 1 qt. (950 mL) warm water and 1 tsp. (5 mL) mild dish detergent. Mix them together in a clean bowl so they form small bubbles. Place your jewelry into the solution and allow it to soak for 10 to 20 minutes. Set a timer to help you remember to take your jewelry out after it has soaked for awhile.



- 3 Remove the jewelry from the cleaning solution. Check the jewelry again for any imperfections, loose stones or stretched prongs. Do not continue cleaning your jewelry if there is something wrong with it.
- 4 Brush your jewelry with an old soft-bristled toothbrush or clean make-up brush. Coat the brush bristles with a combination of baking soda and warm water. Brush your jewelry on all sides: top, bottom, inside and outside. Attempt to get between the stone and the setting, without damaging the prongs. Brush lightly so as to not damage or scratch your jewelry's surface.
- 5 Rinse your jewelry with warm water. Use a clean bowl or rinse it in the sink. If you rinse your jewelry in the sink, plug the drain. Even if you have confidence that you won't drop your jewelry down the sink, any loose stones could fall out and be washed away.



- 6 Dry your jewelry using a soft towel or jewelry polishing cloth. Pat it dry, paying special attention to getting the cubic zirconia stone dry, too. Do not use circular motions, as this can scratch your jewelry. After drying, if you suspect that your jewelry is not completely dry, lay it on a cloth to absorb any leftover moisture.
- 7 Repeat the process if your jewelry does not appear to be clean. Sometimes grime or stuck-on dirt is stubborn and requires several attempts to remove it. Be patient as you repeat the process to clean your cubic zirconia jewelry or accessories.
- 8 Store your cubic zirconia jewelry in a lined jewelry box to keep it clean longer. The lining should be soft and protective. Do not stack your jewelry on other pieces. This will help to avoid scratches or other damage that can be done to your cubic zirconia jewelry.

