



Care & Cleaning of
Fine Quality Jewellery

About Nationwide

2016 marked the 25th anniversary of the Nationwide Jewellers group – a remarkable achievement in its history of becoming the largest jewellery group in Australasia.

Founded in 1991, Nationwide today represents more than 500 independent retail jewellery shops throughout Australia and New Zealand.



Quality Jewellery from a name you can trust

Fine Quality Jewellery - an investment to mark milestones

For centuries man has invested in fine quality jewellery as an expression of love, of status or to mark milestones in life's journey.

When you invest in fine quality jewellery from your Nationwide Jeweller you are enlisting the aid of an expert. Not just a manager key holder, but a store owner expert in all facets of jewellery. This expertise is backed by the buying power of Australasia's largest group of independent retail jewellers. This backing ensures your choice will endure for years to come, yielding pleasure throughout your life time, and passing as an heirloom, on to future generations.

Your investment in fine quality jewellery can be further protected when you understand the materials used to craft your jewellery and how best to care for those materials. Please accept this booklet as an introduction to the world of fine quality jewellery that awaits you within your Nationwide Jeweller's store.



Colin Pocklington. MD



The Basics

Mohs Scale

An important factor to consider when caring for your jewellery is the hardness of the gemstones in the items to be cleaned. This hardness is measured on a Mohs Scale (from 1-10), 10 being the hardest known substance to man. Here are the ratings for some of the more popular gemstones.

Gemstone/Metal	Hardness
Diamond	10
Sapphire	9
Ruby	9
Topaz	8
Emerald	7.5
Jade	6.5 - 7
Opal	5 - 6.5
Pearl	2.5 - 4



If you consider that pure gold or silver would only rate as 2.5 to 3 on Mohs scale you will understand why gemstones scratch items made from gold or silver. The Mohs scale is not a scale of equal increments; for example, diamond is almost 4 times harder than sapphire & ruby.

Did you know?

The Hope Diamond is a large (45.52 carat), deep blue diamond, currently housed in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. The diamond is legendary for the curse it supposedly visits upon its possessors. The Hope Diamond appears a brilliant blue to the naked eye because of trace amounts of boron within the diamond.

The Basics

Gold Caratage

Any caratage value lower than 24 is a measure of how much gold there is in the jewellery gold alloy. Pure gold is 24cts and so theoretically 100% gold, in reality there is a 1% tolerance allowed.

The following table shows the percent of gold in the most commonly used alloys in jewellery in Australasia.

Carats	Stamped	Gold Content %
18	750	75
9	375	37.5

Sterling Silver Jewellery is stamped 925 which means it is 92.5% pure silver.

Platinum in Australasia is usually stamped 950 as it is 95% pure. The remaining 5% alloy is made up of other metals to increase hardness.



Did you know?

The largest gold nugget ever found was the Welcome Stranger, found in Victoria, Australia in 1867. It weighed over 2,100 troy ounces (65.2 kg). The largest gold nugget in existence is the Hand of Faith, found by Kevin Hillier in Victoria in 1980 using a metal detector.

Caring for your Jewellery

General Care & Cleaning

It is important that you understand how to care for your jewellery. A useful comparison to make is; would you pay \$3,000 for a Chanel jacket, and then wear it to clean the bathroom with bleach?

Your jewellery reflects the way you wear and store it more than you can imagine. Your Nationwide Jeweller will be able to tell if you wear your jewellery all the time, and if you throw it in a box with everything else.

Care

In day-to-day wear a diamond, 10 on the Mohs scale, will not scratch BUT diamonds will chip on the girdle where they are most vulnerable. So, generally speaking they should not be worn when doing household chores and definitely not when doing the gardening!

So then, as diamonds are the hardest known substance to man and should not be worn whilst doing household chores, then it goes without saying that all other gemstones and metals that are softer than diamonds should not be worn either.



Did you know?

The worlds largest diamond is the 530-carat Star of Africa, the centrepiece of the British crown jewels. The Star of Africa was cut from the largest diamond ever found on Earth, a 3100-carat stone. BLING! BLING!

Caring for your Jewellery

As all gems and metals have different hardness levels, this then means that they should always be kept separate in your jewellery box. Diamonds will scratch other items and gems such as pearls or opal which are quite soft and should not be stored where other items can scratch and damage them. Always keep jewellery in a compartmentalised jewel box or, alternatively, wrapped individually.

Your jewellery should always be the LAST thing you add to your outfit before you walk out the door. Cosmetics, hairspray and perfume are just a few of the enemies to your jewellery. Oil and debris attracts dust and grit and they coat the back of your stones and inside settings. Chemicals in hairsprays and perfume can cause irreversible damage to pearls and opals and chlorine will discolour and damage the settings in your jewellery.



Cleaning Diamonds & Coloured Stones

Cleaning

Always clean your jewellery with the plug in the sink! The following gems and metals are cleaned easily and effectively with warm water in a bowl with a small squeeze of washing up detergent and a tiny amount of ammonia, OR with a small measure of Handy Andy and a soft toothbrush. Soak the jewellery in this solution for a short time, longer if it's really dirty. Scrub with the toothbrush then swirl back in the solution. Put into a strainer (plastic) and rinse with clean water, make sure that the temperature of the rinse water is the same as the solution, so as not to "shock" the gems. Finally, dab dry with a soft cloth.

Gold
Diamonds
Sapphire
Ruby
Topaz
Platinum



Cleaning Diamonds & Coloured Stones

The following items are more sensitive and should only be cleaned by wiping over with a soft damp cloth:



Pearls

Opal

Emerald

Jade

Additionally, pearls should be restrung yearly as the build up of oils and grime on the silk will cause damage to the pearls. Your Nationwide Jeweller can provide this service.

Silver may require cleaning with a specialist cleaner or a cloth but if stored correctly and worn with care it should not become excessively discoloured. NEVER wear silver in salt or chlorinated water.

Did you know?

The Kohinoor "Mountain of Light"; is a 105 carat diamond that was once the largest known diamond in the world. It is reputed to bring misfortune or death to any male who wears or owns it. Conversely, it is reputed to bring good luck to female owners.

Emeralds

Emeralds are frequently bezel-set to protect them from bumps and knocks. Many jewellery designs for emeralds may have them surrounded with accent stones such as diamonds to add beauty and to protect them from side impacts. Although emeralds have a high hardness rating and are not easily scratched (7.5 to 8.0 on Mohs scale), they can be chipped from impact.

Emeralds typically have inclusions. The inclusions in emeralds may be solid, liquid or gas filled. Emeralds are typically oil-treated to improve the clarity and lustre. Cleaning of emeralds should take into consideration these facts. Although emeralds are a fairly hard gemstone, this does not mean that they can be subjected to harsh cleaning.

Emeralds should never be cleaned with steam or any cleaning solution that contains petroleum distillates or any other organic solvent, even if the cleaning solution is a recommended "jewellery cleaner". Most of these are not compatible with the oil treatment of emeralds.

Emeralds should not be placed in ultrasonic cleaning equipment at all and should not be exposed to high heat. A good rule of thumb is that if the cleaning solution you use is too hot for you to put your hand in, you should not place your emerald in it.

CARE & CLEANING

Your emerald should be cleaned gently with a warm, mild detergent solution and a very soft brush, such as a worn-out toothbrush. We recommend soaking your emerald in a dishwashing detergent solution similar to that used to clean regular household dishes, for approximately ten minutes. Then, clean the emerald and mounting with a soft brush. The emerald should then be rinsed with warm water, and patted dry. You should not leave your emerald immersed in the cleaning or rinse solution any longer than is necessary. Cleaning should be done no more frequently than is necessary, and in no case more than several times a year.



Organic Gemstones

While most gemstones are minerals, there is a small class called “Organic Gemstones.” These gems are “organic” because they are formed as either a product or a part of a living organism eg. pearl, amber, coral, ivory, bone and jet. They are prized for their beauty and rarity, but they are not as durable as inorganic (mineral) gemstones. The pearl is an excellent example of an organic gemstone. It is formed when an irritant, such as a small grain of sand, enters into an oyster’s shell. The oyster (or other mollusc) reacts by gradually coating the irritant with layers of nacre. Nacre is the substance called “mother of pearl” that lines the inside of the oyster’s shell. Natural pearls are very rare, but a system has been developed whereby an irritant is deliberately placed inside the oyster’s shell, causing it to begin forming a pearl. Pearls derived in this manner are called “cultured pearls.”

CARE & CLEANING

Clean your pearls regularly. Avoid excessive contact with perfume, dirt and skin oil. Remember to always put your pearls on last, after you have applied makeup and perfume. To clean pearls, use only a recommended pearl cleaner or a mild, non-detergent soap. Use lukewarm water and soft cloth, do not soak the pearls and rinse well in clean warm water and allow to dry properly, preferably flat on a towel or moisture absorbing surface. Remember do not soak pearls in any liquid for more than a few seconds even when rinsing. Never store pearls in airtight containers, plastic or plastic bags as they can deteriorate. Some plastics may emit chemicals that can harm your pearls. Storing pearls for long periods can dry them out and fracture the surface. Protect pearls from temperature extremes and chemicals, such as alcohol and hairspray, as these can erode the surface. Wear your pearls often as they thrive on your skin. Re-string pearls annually with a knot between each pearl. Store your pearls flat, as opposed to hanging them, thus avoiding stretching the thread prematurely.



Gold

Gold

Gold is a chemical element with the symbol Au (from the Latin aurum). It is a highly sought-after precious metal which, for many centuries, has been used as money, a store of value and in jewellery (due to the fact that heat, moisture, oxygen, and most corrosive agents have very little chemical effect on gold). The metal occurs as nuggets or grains in rocks, underground "veins" and in alluvial deposits. It is a dense, soft, shiny, yellow metal. Gold does not react with most chemicals, but is attacked by chlorine, fluorine, aqua regia and cyanide.



GOLD METAL

Gold is the most malleable and ductile metal; a single gram can be beaten into a sheet of one square metre, or an ounce into 300 square feet. Gold readily forms alloys with many other metals. These alloys can be produced to increase the hardness or to create exotic colours. Adding copper yields a redder metal, iron blue, aluminium purple, platinum white, and natural bismuth and silver alloys produce black.

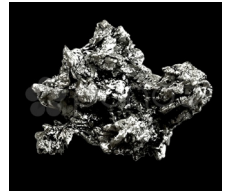
CARE & CLEANING

If you own gold, it is important to care for it properly. Gold is actually very easy to keep clean and if you want your gold to look great no matter how old it is here are some easy tips; Gold can be cleaned easily with dishwashing detergent and a very soft toothbrush, while this method sounds crude, it will usually be extremely effective. You can also purchase a specialist gold jewellery cleaner from your Nationwide Jeweller. These cleaners are mild and non-abrasive and usually include a soft brush. Once you have removed dirt or make up, you can buff gently with a lint free cotton cloth. If your gold is particularly scratched or dull your Nationwide Jeweller can have it professionally polished for you. One of the best ways to store gold is in a velvet box or in tissue paper. Make sure the gold is dry and is stored in a cool, dry environment. Velvet or tissue paper is used so that other pieces of jewellery that have sharp edges or stones do not scratch or damage the jewellery.

Silver

Silver is a chemical element with the symbol Ag (from the Latin argentum) and has been known since ancient times. Silver is mentioned in the book of Genesis. Earlier evidence reveals that slag heaps found in Asia Minor and on the islands of the Aegean Sea indicate that silver was being separated from lead as early as the 4th millennium BC.

Silver has been used for thousands of years for ornaments and utensils, for trade, and as a basis for monetary systems. As a precious metal, it was long considered second only to gold in value.



SILVER METAL

Silver is very ductile and malleable with a brilliant white metallic lustre that can take a high degree of polish. It has a high thermal conductivity making heavy silver jewellery comfortable to the wearer. Silver is typically alloyed with copper to a purity of 92.5% to improve the durability and working properties of the metal. This 92.5% purity is known as Sterling Silver.

CARE & CLEANING

Silver is a beautiful precious metal that is very durable; however it can tarnish or oxidize easily. Caring for and cleaning silver is very easy, you can clean silver with dishwashing detergent and an extremely soft brush, usually a very soft baby's toothbrush will do the trick. Once the water beads up on the silver, pat dry with a lint free cloth. If your silver is particularly scratched, dull or tarnished your Nationwide Jeweller can professionally polish it for you - restoring the silver's natural lustre. Do not use a harsh cloth as the fibres may scratch and damage the silver. For silver that has stubborn tarnish, there are products that your Nationwide Jeweller sells to remove tarnish from silverware and your jewellery. You should store silver in a dry, dark place. Light can tarnish your silver, so usually a velvet box or a velvet bag is perfect. It is also important to note that chlorine and household chemicals can damage silver, so if you plan on swimming or cleaning your home, remove your silver jewellery.

Platinum

Platinum

When pure, the metal appears greyish-white and firm. The metal is corrosion-resistant. Platinum's wear and tarnish-resistance characteristics are well suited for making fine jewellery. Platinum is more precious than gold. The price of platinum changes along with its availability, but it normally costs slightly less than twice the price of gold. In the 18th century, platinum's rarity made King Louis XV of France declare it the only metal fit for a king.



PLATINUM METAL

CARE & CLEANING

Platinum is an expensive, precious metal, so you will want to take care of it well and have it looking good whenever you wear it. Platinum is far less susceptible to tarnish than gold or silver. Platinum can be cleaned the same way as gold, by using dishwashing detergent and an extremely soft brush. Buff with a lint free cloth made from cotton. You can store platinum in a velvet container in a cool dry place. Make sure it is protected from other pieces of jewellery that can scratch or damage your platinum.

Annual Check by a Professional

All jewellery should be checked by your Nationwide Jeweller every year. You should have the claws or bezel checked to make sure that your stones are secure. The band on your ring should be checked to make sure that it is not wearing thin. If you find that you have a piece that is suddenly "catching" on your clothing, this would indicate that perhaps a claw is lifting off the stone. If your stone "rattles" in the bezel this could indicate that the edge may be wearing thin and lifting off the stone. Your jeweller is trained to see these things and will be able to give you advice on the best course of action. Remember, maintenance is less expensive than replacement!

Anniversary, Zodiac & Birthstones

Anniversary Gemstones

1	Pearl
2	Coral
3	Turquoise
4	Amber
5	Diamond
6	Sapphire
7	Aquamarine
8	Amethyst
9	Tourmaline
10	Diamond
11	Garnet
12	Gold
13	Lapis
14	Opal
15	Diamond
16	Jade
17	Emerald
18	Malachite
19	Beryl
20	Diamond
25	Silver
30	Diamond
35	Pearl
40	Ruby
45	Sapphire
50	Gold
55	Emerald

Zodiac Stones

Aries	Ruby
Taurus	Sapphire
Gemini	Aquamarine
Cancer	Moonstone or Pearl
Leo	Topaz or Citrine
Virgo	Jade
Libra	Opal
Scorpio	Bloodstone
Sagittarius	Turquoise
Capricorn	Diamond or Onyx
Aquarius	Malachite or Azurite
Pisces	Emerald or Amethyst

Birthstones

January	Garnet
February	Amethyst
March	Aquamarine
April	Diamond
May	Emerald
June	Pearl
July	Ruby
August	Peridot
September	Sapphire
October	Opal
November	Citrine
December	Blue Topaz



Nationwide Jewellers

