



GUIDE TO CARING FOR YOUR JEWELLERY

SILVER | GOLD | PLATED | STONE CARE

With the pandemic came a responsibility for us all to protect ourselves and others by washing our hands and using hand sanitiser more frequently than our hands can possibly tolerate. With all this handwashing it is natural to think it's doing our jewellery a world of good. Unfortunately this may not necessarily be true. With an increase in dull looking jewellery and skin rashes we thought here at **Vanessa Miller Jewellery** we would put together a comprehensive guide to caring for your jewellery.



Silver Jewellery

Silver jewellery can tarnish over a period of time. A greyish discolouration, that may sometimes appear black and leaves silver looking dull and lifeless is caused by a natural reaction to the air.

To prevent tarnish you can follow these simple steps:

- allow all perfumes and lotions to dry fully before applying your jewellery.
- Store jewellery in a ziplock bag with the air squeezed out in a jewellery box..

Gold

24 carat gold is the only precious metal that will not tarnish and is a very soft metal in its purest form. To create different carats of gold (9, 14, 18, 22, 24 carat) other metals are added to produce different colors and to create a harder wearing metal, the higher the carat the softer the gold. If wearing stacking rings for example, it is advisable to wear the same carat of metal together to prevent damage, as a softer carat (e.g 18ct) will eventually require rebuilding as a harder carat (such as 9ct) will friction rub against the softer metal, wearing it away.

In order to maintain the beauty of your gold jewellery we recommend it is cleaned regularly with a soft lint free cloth or a gold polishing cloth to keep your gold jewellery looking beautiful.



Woodland collection by Vanessa Miller Jewellery
www.vanessamillerjewellery.co.uk

Plating, Vermeil, Oxidisation

Vermeil (pronounced ver-may) is a thick layer of gold applied to silver. Whereas plating is a layer of metal on any metal. Oxidisation is a deliberate chemical reaction that turns metals such as silver and copper black or grey.

Oxidisation, plating of any kind and vermeil will eventually wear away to reveal the metal underneath. How quickly will depend on how frequently the item is worn, handled and your skins acidity will all affect the finish.

Here at Vanessa Miller Jewellery we offer a jewellery reconditioning service.

[Please contact us here for current prices.](#)



Clean jewellery with a few drops of dish soap, warm water and a soft toothbrush or soft cloth

GEMSTONES

Gemstones can add to the value and beauty of your jewellery. Hand cream, dried remnants of soap, hand sanitiser, fingerprints and general dirt can all build up and dull gemstones but this can easily be cleaned at home or by a professional.

Gemstones are all graded against the **MoHs scale of hardness** from the softest 1 - the equivalent of talc, up to the hardest 10 - a diamond. It's important to be aware of the hardness of your gemstone as this will reduce any risk of damage to it during cleaning. Gemstones 7 or above on the MoHs scale can be cleaned with a very soft brush and a few drops of dish soap in warm water, and gemstones below 7 use a soft cloth and warm soapy water.

Some gemstones such as amethyst, citrine and smoky quartz can be damaged by sunlight causing them to become paler. Other gemstones may be damaged by chemicals and water too, such as opal, pearl and turquoise as they are porous and therefore mustn't be immersed in water, Emeralds may be treated with oils to improve their appearance and cleaning is recommended by a professional to avoid disastrous damage.

It's also important to consider how your gemstone jewellery is stored, as gemstones high on MoHs scale will scratch any gemstone below it. We recommend gemstone jewellery is stored in a box with separation slots.

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