

# CLEANING YOUR JEWELRY

## HOW TO MAINTAIN AND RESTORE THAT SPARKLE

### Diamond and Gemstone Rings and Jewelry

#### Cleanliness

The most effective way to keep your jewelry beautiful and sparkling is to keep it clean. Unfortunately, the soap from cleaning our hands, leaves residue that builds up on your ring. We don't recommend taking your rings off to wash your hands, unless you are home and can put them in a designated safe place. Taking your jewelry off in a public bathroom to wash your hands, always presents a risk of dropping them down the sink or leaving them behind. Believe me when I say that no one ever plans to leave their rings behind, but we've had many customers do just that

over the years, and when they go back, the rings are always gone. So, wash your hands as normal when you are out and about, and worry about keeping them clean when you are back at home.

The absolute best way to clean your jewelry is to come by our store and have it professionally cleaned. Nothing at home can work as effectively as our sonic cleaner and steamer. Of course, we know that isn't always convenient. We do recommend at least every six months to get your jewelry professionally cleaned and checked. Not only does it get it looking as sparkly as possible, but we can make sure your stones are staying tight and settings are secure and without damage.

For cleaning at home, you can use either the small jar of cleaner that we provide at our store, or simply a soft toothbrush with some dawn dish soap and water, or Mr. Clean and water. These are both great at cutting grease and oils that build up on your jewelry. Simply use the toothbrush to clean behind and around the stones, rinse with clean water, and pat dry. Diamond wedding sets can be soaked overnight for optimum results.

Diamonds and precious metals are always safe to clean as I've outlined above. There are some

gemstones, however, that are more sensitive and should be treated accordingly. If you have any questions about your specific gems or jewelry pieces and how to clean them, we'd be happy to talk with you about it and make recommendations. As a generalized rule, don't soak any colored gemstone jewelry for more than a minute or two, brush and rinse. Better safe than sorry.

## Security

Because you use your hands all the time, center stones take a little abuse. This may cause them to loosen in the setting. You might not even notice that the stone is loose, especially if the stone is dirty, and the dirt is keeping it from rattling around! Tap gently on the stone. This will help you notice if the stone is moving in the setting. Have your stone checked professionally once every 4 - 6 months to determine if the stone is safe and secure. If you are an extremely active person or you know you are particularly rough on your jewelry, have it checked more often. This can save expense and/or insurance claims if you catch problems before you lose stones.

# Pearl Rings and Necklaces

Pearls are organic gemstones. Due to their porous nature, contact with the following should be avoided: all acidic substances, perfume, hairspray, vinegar, fruit juices, detergents, or alcohol. Perspiration can also harm the beauty of pearls, dulling their beautiful luster. Therefore, after wearing them, they should be wiped with a damp (not wet), soft cloth or a silicon cloth. Avoid getting your pearl jewelry wet, as water can weaken silk thread and epoxy. Pearls in rings are almost always glued in place, so removing your pearl ring as specified above can help prolong its security. Even though pearls are exceptionally cohesive and shock-resistant, they rank only 3.5 to 4.5 on the Mohs hardness scale, so they may be scratched by contact with sharp objects or other gemstones.

## Gemstone Inlay

Extra care should be taken when wearing gemstone inlay jewelry. Rings with stone inlay should remain dry for maximum glue life. Unlike a bezel or prong, there is no metal securing the stone over its edge. Inlaid gemstones are set flush with the metal and glued into place. Through

normal wear and tear, the bond can weaken, and the stone can crack, fall out, and be lost. We will happily repair or replace your gemstone inlay rings; normal repair fees will apply.