

WOVEN ART JEWELLERY

Woven and crocheted silver jewellery with a Celtic twist ... handmade in the UK

Caring for Your Sterling Silver Jewellery

- Sterling silver will tarnish over time and this process can be accelerated by exposure to chemicals (such as chlorine), water and perspiration as well as personal care products such as perfume and hairspray.
- As sterling silver is a soft metal it can become scratched, especially with heavy wear.
- Crocheted silver jewellery is made from thin, delicate strands of silver wire and must be treated with particular care.

However your sterling silver jewellery is very durable and will retain its natural beauty if you follow these simple guidelines:-

- Remove jewellery before swimming and showering, and put jewellery on after makeup, perfume and hairspray have been applied.
- Do not wear your sterling silver jewellery whilst doing manual work or any other activity which is likely to scratch it (or snag it in the case of crocheted silver jewellery).
- Buff your silver jewellery with a soft, polishing cloth after each use to keep it shinier longer.
- Store each of your silver jewellery items in its own separate pouch or box (to avoid items scratching each other), and then ideally place the pouch or box inside an air-tight plastic bag to minimise tarnishing.

How to Clean Sterling Silver Jewellery

Ideally take your item to a jeweller to ensure the safest and most professional cleaning job

However, if you would like to clean your silver jewellery yourself please see the following possible options:-

1. Silver Polishing Cloth

This is the safest and gentlest way to polish and remove tarnish from sterling silver, especially if the item incorporates pearls or other soft gemstones. Usually this is a two part procedure - firstly using a cloth impregnated with tarnish removing compound (such as jewellers' rouge), and then giving a final polish with a non impregnated, natural polishing cloth, ensuring all compound is removed from the silver and any beads or gemstones.

2. Warm Water and Soap

Sterling silver can be cleaned by soaking in warm water with a couple of drops of mild washing up liquid or liquid hand soap added. Do not use any cleaning agents which are abrasive or which contain harsh detergents. If necessary, use a very soft toothbrush to gently get into any nooks and crannies. Rinse thoroughly and polish with a natural polishing cloth.

3. Silver Dip

This type of liquid detarnisher should be used only as a last resort, if your sterling silver jewellery is badly tarnished. If you do use this method make sure you wash your silver really well after dipping it (in a mild solution of water and washing up liquid/liquid hand soap) and then rinse and polish it.

Silver dips generally also clean harder, non porous gemstones such as quartz, citrine, amethyst, natural topaz, ruby, sapphire, and diamond. **DO NOT** use silver dips on emeralds or on items of jewellery which contain soft or organic gems including turquoise, malachite, opals, shell, ammonite, coral, or pearls, or on any coated glass beads.