

THE CARE OF

PRECIOUS METAL JEWELRY

With proper care, your precious metal jewelry will remain beautiful over time. Although it is usually safe to clean in the ultrasonic or steam cleaners used by jewelers, the gemstones incorporated in the jewelry may not be. Solutions marketed as precious metal jewelry cleaners may also harm certain gemstones. Therefore, we recommend cleaning precious metal jewelry with warm soapy water and a soft brush. Do not soak your jewelry and avoid harsh detergents and chemicals.

Remove your jewelry when using bleach or before entering a chlorinated pool or hot tub. Chlorine can permanently damage or discolor your gold jewelry especially when coupled with high temperatures.

We also suggest the following common-sense guidelines for precious metal jewelry care:

- ☞ Store your jewelry in separate envelopes or pouches so that the metals are not scratched by hard gemstones such as diamonds.
- ☞ Check your jewelry often to make sure the gemstones are not loose.
- ☞ You should remove jewelry to bathe or wash your hands. Store it in a safe place so it does not slip down the drain.
- ☞ Avoid wearing fine jewelry when you are doing housework, gardening, or participating in a sport.
- ☞ Do not subject your fine jewelry to physical shocks or extreme temperature changes.
- ☞ Have your jewelry repaired, sized, or polished by a professional.
- ☞ Do not forget to insure your precious metal jewelry pieces. If you are unsure about the value, have it appraised by a professional.



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PRECIOUS
METALS

Jewelry Care Guide

THE NATURAL SAPPHIRE COMPANY

A GUIDE TO
**PRECIOUS METAL
JEWELRY CARE**

THE ATTRIBUTES OF
PRECIOUS METALS

Along with their beauty, precious metals have unique properties that make them useful in the jewelry industry. Today, most fine jewelry is mounted in gold, platinum, or palladium. Each of these metals has different properties that can be used to their advantage in jewelry.



PALLADIUM

Palladium is one of six metals that comprise the platinum group metals, or PGMs. The other platinum group metals are platinum, iridium, osmium, rhodium, and ruthenium. Palladium is increasingly used as a substitute for either platinum or white gold in the jewelry industry. Palladium has a lovely silvery-white color so it does not require rhodium plating, and it is harder and less expensive than either gold or platinum. It can also be used to alloy gold or platinum. Because of palladium's excellent biocompatibility, it is a good choice for people with allergies to gold alloys.



GOLD

Gold is the most malleable and ductile metal, characteristics that make it extremely easy to work with. It is also chemically inactive, which means it does not rust, tarnish, or decay.

Gold readily forms alloys with other metals such as silver, copper, and zinc. This characteristic is important in the jewelry industry because gold alloys come in a range of colors, cost less than pure gold, are more durable, and accept a higher polish. Some people are sensitive to metals used to alloy gold, but this allergic reaction can be avoided or eliminated.

White gold is occasionally plated with rhodium, a platinum group metal, to create a brighter finish. Although rhodium is extremely hard, over time the rhodium plating can wear off and may need to be reapplied.



PLATINUM

Jewelers prize platinum because it has superior strength and can be fashioned into intricate designs. Platinum is a silvery-gray metal and the namesake of the platinum group metals. Platinum is often alloyed with other PGMs in the manufacturing of jewelry. Their alloys usually weigh less and they are often harder than pure platinum.

Platinum will look different after it has been worn; it is said to develop a telltale "patina." While some cherish the frosted look of worn platinum, others prefer to have their platinum rhodium-plated to make it whiter and shinier. Another alternative is to buff, steam, or repolish the jewelry to restore platinum's original luster.

All metals scratch, and platinum is no exception. However, when platinum is scratched, the metal is merely displaced; it does not tend to chip or break off. As a result, scratched platinum jewelry can be repolished with little loss of weight.

