

Caring for and Protecting your Jewellery

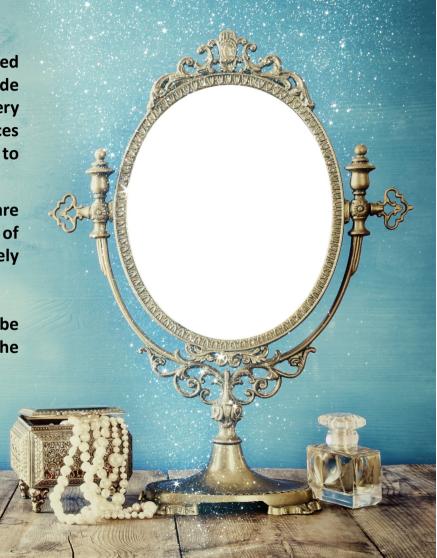


Jewellery is often stored in felt-lined boxes which are ideal as they provide a nonabrasive and non-slippery surface. Store so that no metal pieces touch as this can cause them to tarnish and scratch.

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Pieces made of high karat gold are more prone to denting than those of lower karat gold and should definitely be stored separately.

Any piece that is hollow should be stored likewise, regardless of the material it is made from.





Moisture can pose as a real danger to jewellery, causing rust damage and pitting of metals. Rhinestones, which tend to be mounted on foil backing can often come loose as a result of contact with moisture.

Avoid wearing pieces in "damp" environments, the beach, saunas, showers, baths and pools with chlorine, which is particularly damaging to stones and metals.

Also important is to make sure that the jewellery is completely dry after any cleaning is done before putting them away.



Some stones such as emeralds and opals are very delicate and should never be cleaned with jewellery cleaner or washing up liquid. Keep them clean using a soft cloth or brush dampened with mild soap and lukewarm water. Avoid using a sonic cleaner as the vibrations can loosen the stones and break the filigree.

Pay attention to the setting on the stones and if loose, take straight to the jeweller for repair. Ensure you chose one skilled in repairing antique pieces or the repairs could end up devaluing the item.

Hairsprays, Perfume, makeup and moisturisers can also cause damage so try to apply any of the latter prior to putting on jewellery and causing damage.



Ensuring items are maintained in a good condition also means that treasured items can be passed down to the next generation in the condition in which you bought or inherited them.

As Jewellery insurance specialist Markham are happy to provide advice making sure that your Jewellery is correctly valued, protected and insured.



