

Protecting Your Health While Protecting Your Jewelry

As businesses begin to reopen, everyone is starting to return to their “new normal”. In doing so, we must remember that health and hygiene are among the most important things. While we continue to protect ourselves by practicing good hand washing and using hand sanitizer, we are reminding our customers to protect their jewelry. Too much soap or hand sanitizer on our metals and gemstones can lead to damage. Here are tips to keep your jewelry shining bright and safe.



Use Sanitizer Safely

When frequently using hand sanitizer, it can weaken the brilliance of precious metals including platinum, yellow, rose and white gold. To add to this, alcohol-based hand sanitizers can pit the surface of softer gems or lose the brilliance of other gems as well. While hand sanitizer on jewelry can be acceptable in moderation, it is important to try to remember to remove jewelry and place it somewhere safe as you sanitize. Be sure to let your hands dry completely before putting your jewelry back on.



Cleaning Your Jewelry

To keep jewelry sparkling, wash them once a week in jewelry cleaner or dish soap and lukewarm water. At Gunderson's we have jewelry cleaner available for purchase. Bring your pieces in for professional cleaning and inspection twice a year. Pro tips if you want to go above and beyond with additional care and cleaning:



Do not use a toothbrush on softer gems that can easily be scratched. If you use a commercial cleaner, remember to read all labels and be sure it is safe to use on your specific gemstone. Some gems should never be subjected to these cleaners, including opals, emeralds, amber and pearls.



Steam cleaning formulated specifically for gems can be effective for hard stones and allow them to shine like new. Do not use on easily-damaged, heat-sensitive stones, such as aquamarine, tanzanite, emeralds, opals, pearls, amber and coral.



If you decide to try ultrasonic cleaning for eliminating stubborn dirt, be sure to check with your jeweler first. It may be safe for some diamonds, rubies, and sapphires, however there are conflicting thoughts on the safety of this method, as the shaking can cause stones to become loose from their settings. This cleaning method should not be used for fracture-filled stones.



Protect Yourself Against Unexpected Loss

When removing your jewelry to sanitize as frequently as necessary, you may be putting jewelry at risk for unexpected loss. With that in mind, be sure to insure your jewelry.