

Looking After Your Jewellery



One of the main reasons your diamond or gemstone ring might lose its sparkle is because you are not looking after it the way it needs.

Here are a few simple tips to help maintain your jewellery's sparkle.

For the purpose of this guide, I will be referring mainly to Ruby, Sapphire and Diamond jewellery (fancy colour and white diamonds are the same in this regard).

As far as the stones go themselves, diamonds are one of the hardest materials on the planet, and Rubies and sapphires are just one step behind, so under normal wearing conditions, there's little to worry about. Water, heat, light and common chemicals will not affect stones of a good quality, but some acids may affect dyed or cavity filled stones.



Cleaning your ring.

In the home environment, the easiest way to clean a ring is with some old soapy water and a soft toothbrush. All you're looking to do is brush around the setting of the stone and inside the ring where creams and moisturisers tend to build up.

You can use home cleaning kits, as they use mild chemicals, but I would not recommend anything stronger.

What will really make your jewellery come back to life is a visit to your jeweller's workshop. Here they can use their ultrasonic cleaner to return your ring to its former glory. It's a service that the jeweller who sold you the ring should provide for free.

Have the settings checked by your jeweller

While you're having the ring professionally cleaned, have the jeweller check all of the stone settings for the stones to make sure they are all in good shape. The metal of a well worn ring can weaken over time and stones can fall out. It is better to be proactive in this regard.

Take the ring off.

One of the main reasons rings get damaged, or stones fall out, is because they are being worn during activities that are not really suited to a fine piece of jewellery. A perfect example of this is at the gym. A lot of what your hands come into contact with at a gym is made of metal. Weights, multigym, bars of one description or another, the constant clanking of metal on metal will take its toll.



Likewise gardening can also be less than harmonious for a nice diamond ring. Whether you're using garden tools, moving rocks, or getting your hands generally dirty, the best thing to do is leave the ring indoors.

Other not so great things to do while wearing fine jewellery are housework, swimming, going to the beach, cooking (many a ring has been lost in the Christmas stuffing) and activities where your hands get really cold, like swimming in the sea (leading to your ring falling off due to the cold).

Where to put your ring when you're not wearing it.

Another common problem I hear about when people do go to the trouble of taking an engagement ring off, is where it is put once it's taken off.

There have been many occasions where someone has taken their engagement ring off and put it somewhere so safe, that they've forgotten where they put it. Or they've wrapped it up in a piece of tissue paper, only to find out someone else has thrown it away.

If you're going to the trouble of taking your rings off, for any of the above reasons, create one fixed place where you will always keep the ring. That way there's no chance of losing it.



Insure your ring

Sometimes, it doesn't matter how much trouble you go to look after your prized ring, something happens and it either gets damaged or lost. Don't wait until this happens to find out you don't have the correct insurance in place. Once you have bought the ring, take a picture of it and inform your insurance company. Most rings can be covered under a general household insurance policy, some might require it to be specified and some might require separate cover. Whatever the case, make sure it is covered.