

Oexning Silversmiths, Inc.

Since 1947

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www.oexningsilversmiths.com

Silver Care and Storage Tips

1. Always use a gentle polish or cleaner made specifically for silver, do not use the multi-metal polishes or dips. It can damage your treasures. Some recommended polishes are Hagerty's Silver or silver made specifically for silver.
2. **Do not** use fine silver to serve food containing eggs or mayonnaise. Since such foods can tarnish silver, use glass bowls, or liners that may have accompanied such silver pieces.
3. **Do not** wash your sterling or silver plate in the dishwasher! The chemicals used in dishwasher liquids/pods are not good to silver pieces. We HIGHLY recommend washing your silver treasures by hand with GENTLE non-citrus dishwashing soap. We consistently see items and even receive phone calls with issues to the silver from washing them in the dishwasher. Make sure to dry silver thoroughly using a 100% cotton cloth, such as flour-sack cloths. We do not recommend terry cloth. Tiny water spots may eventually turn into black spots which are very hard, or impossible, to polish off by hand.
4. **Do not** use Brillo pads, steel wool, or other abrasive materials that will scratch silver surfaces. Even tissue paper can scratch newly plated or polished silver if handled improperly.
5. Occasionally, because of the porous nature of old silver plate, small white spots may appear on silver just after it has been replated. These spots are NEVER present when we wrap and ship an item, but they can appear days or weeks after plating as the base metal dries out. DO NOT rub the white spots with the tissue that the piece is wrapped in, use ordinary silver polish and a soft cloth to remove them.
6. As soon as festivities come to an end, wash silver, or let it soak temporarily in warm water. Wash and dry thoroughly as soon as possible.

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7. Using dips to clean silver can remove the oxidation, or darkness, from the ornate areas which is supposed to be there in order to accentuate the details of a given piece. Dips can also remove large amounts of silver from plated items so be very careful when using it!
8. Always thoroughly remove salt and pepper from shakers to prevent pitting and corrosion while in storage.
9. Once clean and dry, wrap silver items in silver cloth for storage. You can also store wrapped silver items in airtight plastic bags. The silver can be wrapped in plain cloth or silver cloth when stored in airtight bags. Use silver bags for flatware.
10. NEVER store unwrapped silver in plastic bags or wrap and make sure that rubber bands do not come in contact with the silver. Since these are petroleum based products, they break down over time and stain the silver. In fact, rubber bands can leave black imprints almost immediately!
11. When not in use, the silver that is stored is easy to maintain due to the fact that tarnish develops from exposure to the sulfides in the air.
12. For silver items in a china cabinet, use a few well-placed, anti-tarnish strips to lengthen the life of the shine! They absorb the sulfides and really keep the silver from tarnishing for months!
13. When the silver kept on display starts to tarnish, the first stage is a gold-like tarnish which wipes away quite easily with a silver polishing cloth, or a pair of polishing gloves!
14. To remove built up silver polish from the crevices of ornate silver pieces, use a horsehair brush, NOT A TOOTHBRUSH, the plastic bristles will scratch the silver.
15. You can view a great selection of silver care products at <https://gryphonstatesilver.com/catalogsearch/result/?q=hagerty>