



HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR JEWELLERY DESIGN BY MIKKI

You have invested in a unique jewellery design that will require some care in order to maintain its beauty over many years to come, particularly if it includes natural stone cabochons. Your sterling silver piece may have been oxidized to enhance the design, if not and you want to minimize the tarnishing process of silver there are steps you can take as outlined below.

WHAT TO DO:

- To maintain the original condition of your silver jewellery, clean your pieces regularly using a non-abrasive polishing cloth. I include a small sample with each piece sold and these are readily available at most jewellery stores and do not harm natural stones.
- Mild dish soap and water will also help keep your silver looking good using a soft toothbrush to get into the nooks and crannies. Always thoroughly dry your silver design with a soft cloth or towel. Avoid drying with tissues which may have a moisturizer added to them.
- When you are not wearing your silver jewellery, always store the pieces in a dry place as moisture speeds up the oxidization process. Zip-lock type bags and individual anti-tarnish cloth pouches are ideal for this and will help prevent both tarnishing and scratching by other pieces. An anti-tarnish tab is included with all of my designs to keep in the zip lock bag with your piece. These tabs are time limited in their effectiveness, but additional strips or tabs can be purchased to replace them within a year to eighteen months.

WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Do not immerse your silver jewellery in commercial jewellery cleaners as these will remove any oxidized finish but more importantly they will also cause irreparable damage to and discolour natural stone cabochons.
- Do not clean your jewellery with toothpastes as these often contain abrasives which will ruin the polish on natural stone cabochons.
- Do not wear your jewellery while you shower, swim, sleep, and exercise – or while you apply hairspray, make-up, lotions, creams or other products that may contain chemicals. Chemicals that can harm your jewellery and natural stones are found in swimming pools, hot tubs, salons and chlorinated tap water.
- Never use an ultrasonic cleaner or rotary tumbler to clean your jewellery as these will ruin many softer stones such as turquoise, chrysocolla, onyx and opals.

If you want to know more or have additional questions about how to care for your specific jewellery design, please do not hesitate to contact me!