



Gold Jewelry Care Guide

18K & 14K Gold

All our 18K and 14K gold pieces leave the factory with an anti-tarnish protective coating. Following the guidelines below will preserve this protection and keep our pieces looking their best in your shop.

Rose Gold (RG) tarnishes faster than Yellow Gold (YG) in both karats due to higher copper content. White Gold relies on rhodium plating which can wear over time.

1. Storage

- **Keep sealed:** Keep items in their original sealed packaging or zip bags until display.
- **Control humidity:** Store unsold stock in a dry, cool environment — away from windows, radiators, and bathrooms.
- **Separate metals:** Do not mix gold pieces with silver — silver tarnishing accelerates gold tarnishing nearby.
- **14K extra care:** Store 14K pieces with extra attention — they need stricter humidity control than 18K.

2. Handling

- **Clean hands:** Always handle pieces with clean, dry hands or powder-free nitrile gloves. Skin oils, sweat, and lotions break down the protective coating.
- **Avoid chemicals:** Avoid handling immediately after using hand sanitizer, perfume, or cleaning chemicals.
- **Minimal polishing:** Wipe gently with a soft microfiber cloth only when needed — over-polishing wears down the coating.
- **18K softness:** 18K is softer and scratches more easily — handle with extra care during fitting and packaging.

3. Display

- **Avoid heat & UV:** Limit direct exposure to strong lighting and heat from spotlights — heat accelerates tarnishing in both 18K and 14K.
- **Air quality:** Keep displays away from open doors, AC vents, and busy walkways where dust and humidity collect.
- **Distance from chemicals:** Avoid displaying near disinfectant sprays, candles, or scented products.

4. Cleaning (when needed)

- **Light dust:** Soft microfiber cloth — gentle wipe to remove dust and fingerprints.
- **Light tarnish:** Warm water + a few drops of mild dish soap, soft brush, rinse, pat dry completely. Same method for both 18K and 14K.
- **Heavy tarnish & complete discoloration :** Difficult to remove and requires a re-polishing with a buffing wheel.

5. For Piercing Studios & High-Use Environments

- **After sterilization:** Store sterilized pieces in sealed containers. In case you use Autoclave process - make sure the items **are well dried after US cleaning** (use a hair dryer for example). Avoid unnecessary Autoclaving as it reduces the anti-tarnishing protection.



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- The best solution for sterilization is EO gas sterilization that is available on request for our customers. Make request via sales@steelandsilver.com
- **Inspect prongs:** Inspect prong-set pieces regularly — tight crevices trap residue and tarnish faster, especially on 14K.

Karat Quick Reference

Property	18K Gold	14K Gold
Pure gold content	75%	58.5%
Tarnish resistance	Higher	Lower (more alloy)
Hardness	Softer (scratches easier)	Harder (more durable)

Do / Don't (Both 18K and 14K)

Action	Do	Don't / Avoid
Storage	Sealed pouch or zip bag, dry	Open trays, humid rooms, mixed with silver
Handling	Clean hands or gloves	Bare oily hands, after sanitizer/perfume
Display	Cool, low-light, rotated stock	Hot spotlights, near vents, long static display
Cleaning	Microfiber cloth, mild soapy water	Ammonia, bleach, harsh polishing