

Caring for Your Silver Cross

Our crosses are quality sterling silver but tarnishing does happen over time for several reasons. Listed below are some of the most common reasons, as well as information about how to prevent future tarnishing. Please pass this information on to whomever you think would benefit from it.

Silver tarnishes (from gold to brown and then to black) due to oxidation. This occurs when it comes into contact with the open air, humidity, and pollutants in the air for extended periods of time.

The most common elements which tarnish silver are foods (like onions, eggs, mayonnaise, salad dressing, salty foods, and others). Other agents that cause tarnish are salt, smoking, sunshine, wool, felt, rubber bands, latex gloves, carpet padding, sulfur in the air, hairspray, perfume, oily residue from our hands and fingers, and exposure to the ocean's salty air and/or water.

Wear your cross as much as possible to prevent tarnishing ~ but when you're not wearing it; store your cross with a paper anti-tarnish strip in your jewelry box or in an air tight container such as a zip lock bag. When taking your cross off (or at the end of each day), wipe it with a soft cloth to remove residue build-up from the day. You may need to occasionally wash it in warm water with a phosphate-free detergent, and then dry it with a soft cotton cloth (preferably a silver polishing cloth).

How to clean:

1. If there is no tarnish on your silver, use a phosphate-free detergent to clean it after use. Silver that is worn then gently washed and dried immediately, will seldom require tarnish removal.
2. Tarnish is most easily removed when it is first noticed (usually a yellowish-brownish tint). It becomes increasingly difficult to remove as it eventually turns to black. Frequent light cleanings (washing the object with a phosphate-free detergent and then drying with a soft cloth) is better than waiting until the tarnish gets so difficult to remove that more abrasive polishes would be needed.
3. Always use a clean, soft cotton cloth when polishing or drying.
4. Rub the object in a straight, back-and-forth manner so as to maintain a uniform appearance. Avoid rubbing in a circular motion.