

## DIAMOND CARE

**Diamonds may be the hardest substance on earth, but they are not indestructible.** While they can be cut or polished only by another diamond, a hard blow can cause them to chip. Never wear your diamond jewelry when doing rough work.

### • TIPS ON CARING FOR YOUR DIAMONDS

Don't store your diamond jewelry next to other jewelry pieces as this can cause scratches. A fabric-lined jewelry case with separate compartments is ideal. You can also individually wrap jewelry in soft tissue paper or use jewelry pouches for each piece. Regularly inspect your diamond jewelry to make sure the setting is secure. Promptly bring it in if you notice any signs of damage or loosening of the prongs. It's a good idea to have your diamond jewelry examined at least once a year by us. In addition to performing any necessary repair work, we can expertly clean your jewelry. Everyday exposure to creams, skin oils, hairspray, household chemicals, and other substances can cause buildup that will dull your diamond's brilliance and sparkle. Use a solution of warm water mixed with a few drops of ammonia, or an approved jewelry cleaner, in which to soak your diamond jewelry. Gentle scrubbing with an old, soft-bristled toothbrush is useful for more extensive cleaning. Rinse and dry with a clean soft cloth.

### The Basics of Keeping Your Diamond Clean

So how can you keep your diamond looking its very best? Here are some tips on diamond care:

- Handle your diamond sparingly, as your fingers provide enough oil from your skin to alter the way your diamond looks.
- Clean your diamond regularly. A simple plan to keep your diamond jewelry always looking beautiful is to soak the diamond in an ammonia-based household cleaner (such as window cleaner) overnight, once or twice weekly. In the morning, remove the diamond from the cleaner and brush it with a soft, clean toothbrush to remove any leftover dirt. Take extra care to brush the back of the diamond as this will be the area that has collected the most oil and dirt.
- Be aware that fragile settings and estate jewelry won't take kindly to being scrubbed with a toothbrush, so use a soft touch. Then, just rinse the diamond with water and wipe with a soft, lint-free cloth.
- Don't use harmful solutions. Chlorine or abrasives should never be used when cleaning diamonds, especially those set in jewelry. These erode some of the metals often used in diamond settings, and may loosen prongs, or even dissolve the metal completely.

Sometimes an ultrasonic cleaner is necessary to remove encrusted dirt on diamonds. By sending high frequency sound waves through a detergent solution, ultrasonic cleaners cause vibrating fluid to remove accumulated dirt and grime. However, they can also shake loose stones from their mounting, so this method shouldn't be used on fragile settings, and is best undertaken by us.

Regular cleaning will keep your diamond jewelry in gleaming condition and ready to sparkle on that special occasion.

### Tips for General Care

Even though you may wear your diamond ring 24 hours a day, you should still give thought to its care.

- **Don't wear it when you're doing rough work.** Even though a diamond is durable, it can be chipped by a hard blow.
- **Don't let your diamond come in contact with a chlorine bleach when you're doing household chores. It can damage and discolor the mounting.**
- Do see us at least once a year to check your ring and other precious pieces for loose prongs and wear of mountings. We'll give them a professional "shine-up" too.

### Putting Diamonds Away

- When you're not wearing diamonds and precious jewelry, they still require attention. **Keep your precious pieces in a fabric-lined jewel case**, or a box with compartments or dividers.
- **If you prefer to use ordinary boxes, wrap each piece individually in tissue paper.**
- **Don't jumble your diamond pieces in a drawer or jewelry case**, because diamonds can scratch other jewelry-and can even scratch each other.
- **Don't leave your ring on the rim of a sink** when you remove it to wash your hands. It can easily slip down the drain.