

Wedding Elegance

Protecting your diamond

Nature invests millions of years of heat and pressure in order to crystallize a single diamond, consequently it is the hardest natural substance known to man. While a diamond will last forever, it is important to learn about the care and cleaning of a diamond to assure its brilliance. There are four easy ways to clean diamonds.

1. The Detergent Bath

Prepare a small bowl of warm sudsy water with any of the mild liquid detergents used in the home. Brush the pieces with a small soft brush, for instance a toothbrush, while they are in the suds, then rinse under warm running water. Pat dry with a soft lint-free cloth.

2. The Cold Water Soak

Soak the jewellery in a half and half solution of cold water and household ammonia for thirty minutes. Lift out and gently tap around the front and back of the mounting with a small soft brush. Swish in the solution a second time, rinse and drain on tissue paper.

3. The Quick Dip Method

Use any of the brand name liquid jewellery cleaners and follow the instructions given on the label.

4. The Ultrasonic Cleaner

There are many ultrasonic machines on the market that will clean diamond jewellery. The package con-

sists of a machine with a cup that is to be filled with water and detergent. When the machine is turned on, a high frequency turbulence creates the cleaning action. Each machine is different, so it is necessary to follow the accompanying directions.

Protecting Diamonds

Even when diamonds and precious jewellery are tucked away, they need special care. Jewellery should be kept in a fabric-lined jewel case or a box with compartments or dividers. If placed in individual boxes, each piece should be wrapped in tissue paper, because a diamond can scratch and damage another diamond.

Though most women wear a diamond engagement ring twenty-four hours a day, there are occasions when it should be removed. Do not wear a diamond engagement ring while doing rough work. Although a diamond is durable, it can be chipped by a very hard blow.

Diamond engagement rings should not come into contact with chlorine bleach, because it can pit and discolour the mounting. A jeweller should check the ring once a year for loose stones and the wear of the mounting. He can also clean the ring professionally. With proper care, diamonds can be enjoyed forever.



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