

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR PEARLS

Pearls are relatively soft compared to other gemstones and therefore need special care and attention. The shine and beauty of a pearl comes from its luster. Many chemicals in cosmetics, lotions, hair products, and perfume can damage the luster of a pearl and can even be affected by acidity in the skin. Over time the acid will eat away at the pearl and diminish its luster. To prevent the build up of dirt and perspiration, it is recommended that you wipe your pearls with a soft cloth after each wearing. If your pearls are very dirty and need to be cleaned, make sure it is done with a cleaner specifically made for pearls. Some cleaners, especially household soaps can do harm to pearls. When you are finished cleaning your pearls, lay them flat on a moist towel; when the towel is dry your pearls will be dry as well. Store pearls where they will not come in contact with other jewelry and keep them away from heat and dry air which can damage them. Follow our list of pearl Do's and Don'ts to ensure proper care of your pearl jewelry:

- Do use jewelry cleaners labeled safe for pearls
- Do be sure to have your pearls restrung at least once a year if you wear them often
- Do have your pearls restrung knotted; this keeps the pearls from falling off the string if a break should occur, and prevent them from rubbing against one another.
- Don't use abrasive materials to clean pearls
- Don't expose pearls to harsh chemicals, especially household cleaning products, or cosmetics and perfume