

Cleaning your Crystals

The basic advice given for all jewelry in Jewelry Care also applies to jewelry made with Swarovski crystals.

Keeping crystal jewelry clean and shiny starts with avoiding exposure to chemicals such as hairspray, hand lotions, and perfumes. Such chemicals can build up on the crystals and make them look dull. When dressing always put your crystal jewelry on last, after you've applied makeup, lotions and sprays. Remove your jewelry first when undressing.

After you take your crystal jewelry off, wipe gently with a damp cloth to remove oils and fingerprints. If your crystal jewelry needs additional cleaning, you can do one of two things... you can dip a cotton swab into water containing a few drops of window cleaner and lightly wipe any problem spots off specific crystals. Lay your clean crystal jewelry on a cotton cloth to air dry.

When your crystal jewelry is thoroughly dry, wrap in jewelers' tissue and store in its own airtight plastic bag. Keep it separate from other jewelry so it doesn't get scratched or scratch you're other pieces of jewelry.

The other way is mostly recommended because many styles of Swarovski crystals have a thin coating on some surfaces to give the crystals their unique appearance, so don't use anything abrasive to clean them off or you will scratch or remove this delicate coating. In this case you can use a glass with warm water and a drop of dish soap. Dip them in then remove them, rinse them in water under low pressure then lay them out to dry. Never use an ultrasonic, ionic or steam cleaner to clean your crystal jewelry. And never use a toothbrush to clean crystal jewelry. This will also scratch the delicate coating. Always handle crystal jewelry very carefully to avoid scratching or dulling the crystals' finish.

The sharp edges of the holes in crystals will cut through silk thread so wire or non-breakable nylon is the usual stringing material. The best stringing material I found to use with the crystals is Berkley's Fireline (fishing line). This line is made to withstand water and heavy weights which make it perfect for beading these crystals. That material will not be damaged as much as silk thread would be if they get wet. It's still best, though, to never soak your crystal jewelry in water, just quick dips to clean it off. Please note: Do not wash the Swarovski simulated pearls. These should be buffed with a soft dry cloth.

If your crystal jewelry is properly stored between each time you wear it, intensive cleaning may never be needed. Never wear your jewelry in the bath, in bed, doing dishes or when exercising. This can cause unreasonable stress and wear and tear. Chains and necklaces will retain their shine and glitter best if they are hung up when not being worn. Do not store your Swarovski Jewelry in areas of excessive heat or sun exposure.

If all else fails and you feel more comfortable using something that Swarovski has designed just for cleaning their crystals, then check out their [Cleaning Kit](#).

Sweetest Temptations Creations plating standards are very high and under normal circumstances your Swarovski Jewelry will have a very long life. To ensure the lasting beauty of your Swarovski Jewelry, do not use sonic cleaners, boiling water or commercial jewelry cleaners. Jewelry cleaners usually contain ammonia or alcohol which can have a damaging effect on the plating.

Taking Care of Crystal Jewelry ~ Summary

- The thin coating on some crystals can be easily scratched so don't clean crystal jewelry with a toothbrush or any other kind of brush.
- Wipe gently with a slightly damp cotton cloth to clean crystal jewelry.
- Use a cotton swab moistened with diluted window cleaner to remove problem spots and reach smaller spaces between crystals.
- Let your crystal jewelry dry thoroughly before storing.
- Store each piece of clean crystal jewelry flat and in its own plastic bag.
- Do not wipe crystal jewelry with a polishing cloth that is used to clean silver or gold; such a cloth will leave a dulling film on the crystals. Use only soft clean cotton to clean crystal jewelry.
- Do not get crystal jewelry soaking wet; that can damage the reflective coating on the crystals.
- Each Swarovski crystal is a magical always-changing work of art. Wear your crystals and Sparkle On!