



Caring for Opals

Never clean your opal jewelry in mechanical cleaning systems, such as ultrasonic, steam, or boiling. Use only the methods recommended below.

Most opal jewelry can be cleaned with warm water, mild soap, and soft brush, just like many other gemstone jewelry pieces. Make sure you use mild soap only (no other cleaning solution) and a soft brush (not a toothbrush).

Dirt Can Scratch Your Opals and Pearls

You might be tempted to simply wipe a bit of dirt off your opal jewelry. Don't do it. In terms of hardness, opals range from 5.5 to 6.5. Most household dust is a 7 to 7.5 on the Mohs scale. That dirt could scratch your opal. Clean them as recommended above, instead.

Storage Recommendations

- 🔗 Store your opal jewelry separately from other pieces to minimize accidental contact or scratches.
- 🔗 Opals will craze (develop cracks on the surface) and lose their play of color if their water evaporates.
- 🔗 Storing your opal jewelry pieces wrapped in soft, moist cotton may prolong their life.
- 🔗 Don't store your opal pieces in oil or glycerin. This won't help protect them and will make cleaning more tedious and messier.
- 🔗 Keep your opals away from sources of heat or cold, like fireplaces or open windows.

Wearing Your Opal Jewelry

- 🔗 Be especially careful about taking opal jewelry straight from the comfortable temperatures of your home into a frigid night or scorching summer day. If you can't avoid taking your opal jewelry from one temperature extreme to another, keep the pieces under your clothes if at all possible to help minimize the change.
- 🔗 Apply your perfumes, colognes, and hairsprays before you put on any gemstone jewelry, but be particularly cautious with your opal jewelry because they react very poorly to acids and alcohols.
- 🔗 Avoid doing household or outdoor chores while wearing opals.