

CARE & CLEANING TIPS

for handmade chainmaille jewelry



Keep your chainmaille jewelry looking beautiful using the tips below! For even more information about how to care for your handmade pieces, visit BlueBuddhaBoutique.com!

General care

- Keep jewelry away from household cleaners and chlorine.
- When not wearing your jewelry, store each piece in its own Ziploc® or soft fabric bag. Keep in a dark place. This reduces tarnish, keeps softer metals from being scratched, and preserves colored rings longer.
- Always handle your jewelry gently.
- Read about the specific metals your piece contains for complete care instructions.

General Cleaning (for most metals)

- Your jewelry can pick up dirt, oil, and even odors.
- Soak jewelry in soapy water (use non-lotion dishwashing soap) for several minutes. Then lather with soap and gently but briskly rub the jewelry between your palms. Rinse with warm water and let air dry, or use a blow dryer on lowest and coolest setting.

Sterling Silver

- Tarnishes quickly when exposed to light and air. If you want your jewelry to tarnish, then leave it out when you're not wearing it. (Otherwise, store each piece in its own Ziploc® bag with an anti-tarnish tab. Remove tarnish regularly following cleaning instructions above.)

Gold-Fill

- May develop a subtle patina with time. Follow general cleaning instructions above.
- Gold-fill is a layer of 12k gold surrounding a base metal core. This layer is 20% the thickness of the wire—about 1000 times thicker than gold-plating—so the gold won't flake off.

Aluminum

- Aluminum is a soft metal, so be extra gentle.
- Follow general care and cleaning tips (left).

Brass

- Can tarnish quickly. Clean with any commercial jewelry cleaner safe for brass.

Copper

- Copper quickly turns from a shiny orange-brown to a deep chocolate color. Exposure to air and light speed this process. Leave your piece out if you want it to tarnish quickly. Otherwise, store it in its own Ziploc® bag.
- If you prefer your copper and jewelry brass pieces to stay bright and shiny, soak pieces in vinegar for 5-10 seconds. After removing the piece from the mixture, lather with non-lotion dishwashing soap and water. Rinse thoroughly with cold water. Dry the piece completely right away with a blow dryer on lowest setting to prevent water spots.
- Copper is very soft, so be extra gentle.

Stainless Steel

- Steel reacts to temperature changes quickly. Take care when cooking over a stove, washing your hands with hot water, and using a hair dryer. Steel requires little maintenance, but if you'd like to clean your piece, follow general care and cleaning tips (left).

Colored Rings

- The colored rings will fade with time, but storing your jewelry in a Ziploc® or soft fabric bag helps minimize discoloration.
- Do NOT use polishing crèmes or cloths because they may remove the color from anodized rings. Follow general care and cleaning tips (left).

Most importantly, wear your handmade jewelry with pride!