

# Handle with care

Caring for your pearls and other precious stones so that you can enjoy them for years to come



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Firstly, let's start by taking a look at pearls and how best to care for them.

Isolate them – instead of throwing your pearl earrings or ring into a dish with your other jewellery or watches at the end of the day, protect them by storing them separately in pouches made of natural breathing fibres, such as silk or cotton.

Keep them away from lotions, perfumes, or other chemicals – pearls are vulnerable to damage from chlorine bleach as well as other everyday chemicals found in lotions, perfumes, oils and hairspray. Therefore, always apply hairspray and perfume before putting on pearls and jewellery. Avoid applying too much lotion on the back of your neck if you're wearing a pearl necklace and after each wearing, wipe off your pearls with a soft, clean cloth or wash them with mild soap and water.

Restraining them every 2-3 years – to prevent pearl necklace strings from becoming stretched, weakened or soiled, replace them every two to three years. This will prevent breakage and potentially lost or damaged pearls.

Secondly, we'll discuss caring for your diamonds and other precious stones.

Check clasps and prongs regularly – the majority of jewellery claims involve the “mysterious disappearance” of diamonds and other stones. An example of this is when

a stone falls out of its setting without you knowing it. To avoid this, ask your jeweller to check the integrity of the clasps and prongs frequently – at least every six months (or more often if you wear the piece a lot).

Use the shake test – Between visits to the jeweller, you can test the prongs on your jewellery yourself. Simply take off your jewellery, hold the stone up to your ear and shake it. If it is loose, you will hear it moving and should get it repaired.

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**Courtesy of  
Chubb**

