

Wright's
Shining Home
COMPANION

Table of Contents

2 HOW ONE MUDDY COW MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE

A Brief History of J.A. Wright & Co.



4 A GUIDE TO FINE METAL CARE

Using the Right Wright's Products; Additional Uses! Chart; Caring for Your Metals; Silver Care Tips



8 CREATING AN HEIRLOOM

The Art and Work of a Master Silversmith

10 SETTING YOUR TABLE

Using Your Imagination



14 GIVING THE PERFECT GIFT: SILVER

The Sons of Liberty Bowl; Gift Ideas; Anniversary Gift Chart



16 CARING FOR YOUR JEWELRY

Jewelry Care Guidelines Chart

18 ASKING FOR HELP:

800-837-8140

Consumer Hotline

Questions & Answers;

Heavy Tarnish on Silver;

Lacquer

20 LEARNING MORE

Glossary;

Places to Go;

Resources & References



How One Muddy Cow Made a Big Difference:



For well over a century, the J.A. Wright family devoted itself to producing a line of top-quality metal polishes. J.A. Wright & Co. is a business distinguished by innovation, autonomy, and integrity.

An accidental discovery in 1872 launched the business. J.A. Wright, at the time part-owner of the Eagle Hotel in Keene, was driving his buggy on a back road between Fitzwilliam and Troy, New Hampshire. He spotted a hapless cow mired in a bog and, with the help of a neighboring farmer, rescued her. As the two men chatted, Mr. Wright noticed that the dark-colored mud on the animal's leg and flanks grew remarkably lighter as it dried. When the cow shook her head, mud dropped from her bell, which had

brightened in spots, as if polished. Mr. Wright gathered a sample of the mud and sent it off for analysis.

Information from the Massachusetts State Assayer's Office confirmed the composition as diatomaceous earth made of microscopic shells of single-celled aquatic algae deposited over thousands of years. J.A. Wright immediately purchased the tract of land containing the bed of silica diatomite and began marketing the special substance under the names Red Star Cleaning Powder and Golden Seal Metal Polish.

In 1875 demand was great enough to warrant moving



production from the cramped back rooms of the Eagle Hotel to a factory building on Cypress Street. Originally the Wright product was an extremely fine dry powder, but by 1887, Mr. Wright developed a more practical paste and registered it under the name of Silver Cream.

At the time of his death in 1896, J.A. Wright's sons, Frank A. and Arthur L., became president and treasurer respectively, running the company in the family tradition of ingenuity. They introduced glass jars at the turn of the century (a half-pint sold for 25 cents), built a new factory on Emerald Street that included the Hampshire Press, a label-printing



J.A. Wright's & Co.'s silica works in Troy, New Hampshire, circa 1880. John A. Wright, founder, is in foreground.

business, and incorporated automation on the assembly line. As the local supply of diatomaceous earth was depleted, the brothers developed a source in Herkimer, New York, which the company mined for the next 40 years.

By 1914 the annual advertising budget was \$25,000. The company's sales force was strong, and innovative promotional techniques that included free samples, premiums, and prizes contrib-



A Brief History of J. A. Wright & Co.

uted to steady growth. Frank introduced a five-day workweek (before Henry Ford) and ran the company as a capable and compassionate manager until his death in 1929. Frank had no children. At the time of his death, Arthur's only child John P. Wright became president.

During the Depression, John P. combatted a ten-percent decline in sales with an aggressive campaign that included their first radio advertising in 1930. Business rebounded in the mid-1930s, and by 1937 all previous sales records had been broken. To accommodate expansion, the company built a fully automated production line and larger facility on Dunbar Street in 1940. In 1945 Lompoc, California, became a new source for diatomaceous earth, and the

refining process was handled by Johns-Manville. John P. Wright continued creative promotional techniques, including appointing a national food broker network to handle sales on commission. In 1954 their first television advertising appeared on Dave Garroway's "Today Show"

In the mid-1950s, while their father was still president, John M. and Thomas P. became the fourth generation of Wright's to join the family business. John P. died in 1972, having ushered the company through 43 years of volatile economic history with remarkably persistent growth. John M. was elected president and Thomas P., vice president. In the early 1970s they spearheaded the expansion of Wright's products. They developed brass and copper polishes

and jewelry cleaner, created a modern in-house laboratory, and repackaged the line as "America's First Family of Metal Polishes."

In 1983 they enlarged the Dunbar Street facility by 50 percent and began investigating techniques for providing higher and more consistent quality polishes. Their painstaking research led to the replacement of diatomaceous earth with natural clay that results in an even brighter finish.

In 1992 John B. Wright, son of John M., became president of the company, the fifth generation of Wright's to do so. John M. retired as Chairman and CEO at

the end of 1995 and John B. took over. John B. managed "the liberal arts program of manufacturing" where employees in production and customer-service teams rotate duties and share job descriptions. John said proudly, "We are the best-trained, most-skilled workforce in the history of the company. We continually hone the cutting edge of quality, efficiency, and citizenship." In

2006 John B. sold J.A. Wright to Weiman Products, LLC.

The company is actually aware that customers today want more than a quality product. They are interested in how a business conducts itself as a corporate citizen. As J.A. Wright & Co. enters its second century, it is as devoted as ever to maintaining quality products with keen sense of responsibility to customers, employees, and the community.



A Guide to Fine Metal Care



If the metalware in your home is brand-new silver flatware, antique copper cookware, or a brass door knocker, it is meant to be used and enjoyed. For over a century J.A. Wright & Co. has responded to the needs of thousands of customers who want to know the best way to care for their fine metals. Questions from homemakers, museum curators, tag-sale collectors, restaurateurs, and antique dealers range from simple polishing to complex chemistry. No matter what the question, J.A. Wright & Co. wants you to remember that your jewelry and metalware weren't fashioned for painstaking care. These pieces were meant to be used and appreciated with no more care than is given to everyday china or your coffee table.

Here are our suggestions for the easy and practical care of your silver, brass, copper, pewter, and jewelry using Wright's polishes. We formulate products that are safe for you and the environment while being highly effective at cleaning and polishing.

Using the Right Wright's Product



Silver Cream: Gentle all-purpose silver polish that removes tarnish quickly and leaves a bright, even finish. Also works well on stainless steel, porcelain, and chrome (see sidebar at right for additional uses).

“Your Wright’s Silver Cream was used by my Grandma, my Mom and, for many years myself. I keep it at counter level and tonight noticed that it cleans porcelain and stainless as well.”

Marilynn E. Nelson
Walnut Creek, California



Anti-Tarnish Silver Polish: Polishes silver and protects with invisible wax-like surface that slows the formation of new tarnish. Excellent for silver on display or in storage.

“I can’t tell you how impressed I am with your brass and copper creams. I have more than 90 pieces of antique brass and have tried every brass polishing product on the market, and have even made my own polishes. Believe me, nothing comes close to the ease, efficiency, and performance of your products.”

Patricia Rae Barssé
Fort Myers, Florida



Brass Polish: Water-based liquid brass polish that allows you to polish, rinse, and dry. Eliminates tedious and messy buffing necessary with petroleum-based products.

Copper Cream: Fast acting, odorless products designed for copper cookware and heavily tarnished copper and brass.



Brass Cream: Odorless paste brass polish, which, like the liquid form, can be rinsed off easily. Eliminates tedious buffing.

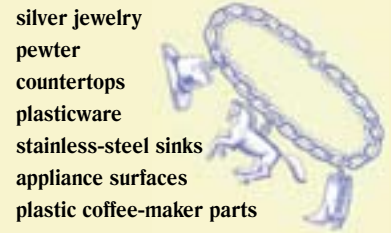


Jewelry Care: Cleans gold and a variety of gemstones. Brings jewelry back to its original sparkle in seconds.

ADDITIONAL USES!

Wright’s Silver Cream has many additional uses. Just wipe on, develop a lather, rub thoroughly, and rinse off.

- silver jewelry
- pewter
- countertops
- plasticware
- stainless-steel sinks
- appliance surfaces
- plastic coffee-maker parts
- coffee and tea cups
- chrome bathroom fixtures
- toasters (unplug first!)
- stainless-steel flatware
- glass top stoves
- ceramic cookware
- glass cookware
- plastic tablecloths
- porcelain
- fiberglass showers/tubs
- white leather sneakers



- white nursing shoes
- automobile chrome
- baby shoes
- belt buckles
- false teeth
- boat hardware
- golf clubs
- fishing lures
- whitewall tires
- horse riding equipment
- motorcycle chrome
- aluminum alloy wheels and silver, of course!



Caring for Your Metals

“I am compelled to write to you and thank you for your wonderful product, Wright’s Anti-Tarnish Silver Polish. I have spent many, many dollars on various cleaning agents for my silver, including gloves, special clothes, etc., but nothing comes close to the quality or standard of your silver polish.”

Audrey G. Pullens
Woodside, California



Tarnish is the discoloration of a metal surface by substances that contact the metal through air, water, or food. Over time, tarnish progressively dulls any metal — brass, copper, silver, or gold. Tarnish is accelerated by exposure to heat, moisture, direct flame, air pollution, and gas fumes. There is nothing complicated about the removal of tarnish. Regular washing and polishing will prevent tarnish from becoming deeply embedded.

Pitting or etching on metal surfaces is called corrosion. It occurs when corrosive elements like salt come in contact with metal. Regular polishing will decrease the likelihood of corrosion and will also improve the appearance of a corroded surface.

When polishing, select the appropriate Wright’s product and always use a soft sponge or a cotton flannel cloth. *Your application is very important:* A coarse sponge or rough cloth can cause noticeable scratches,

especially in silver. In the case of silver and pewter, never use steel wool, an abrasive cleanser, or a sponge that has been used with an abrasive product. As a precaution, store your applicator with its polish for use with that polish only.

On heavily tarnished brass and copper that are not easily cleaned by vigorous polishing, you may occasionally have to use a very fine steel wool (grade 000 or finer). This will leave tiny scratches, but they should disappear with regular use and polishing with soft applicator.

Apply the appropriate Wright’s polish and rub gently and thoroughly, following the contours of the piece until tarnish is removed. After polishing, rinse the piece with warm water to remove all polish. Dry with soft cloth to prevent water spotting. Do not use paper toweling as it may scratch the metal, particularly silver.



Silver Care Tips

■ The best care for your silver is frequent use and washing. Your silver will develop a glowing patina, the soft luster that comes with age and use. If you use your silverware regularly, expect to polish it a few times a year. Polish when tarnish is a light gold color.

■ Tarnish on silver is primarily caused by sulphur. Sulphur is found in food, water, air, fossil fuel emissions, and many other sources. Keep this in mind as you decide where to display and store your silver.

■ Rinse silverware immediately after contact with certain foods that accelerate tarnish or



corrosion: eggs, mayonnaise, mustard, vinegar, citrus fruits, olives, or salt.

- Do not soak silverware overnight or for prolonged period. Avoid contact with aluminium, stainless steel, or other metals since an adverse reaction between the metals could damage your silver.
- Avoid having your silver come in contact with rubber mats and rubber bands; rubber may contain sulphur and could accelerate tarnishing. Most household “rubber” gloves do not contain sulphur and will not cause a problem.

- NEVER use bleach with your silver. It tarnishes silver readily.
- Do not apply undiluted dish washing detergent directly on silver. It could etch the surface.
- We do not recommend regular dishwasher use for your silver. Wash by hand as you would your fine crystal and china. If you do use the dishwasher, separate silver from stainless, keep detergent to a minimum, remove silver before the drying cycle, and dry by hand to avoid spotting. Be aware that hot water and detergents can loosen knife handles and damage decorative oxidized patterns. Frequent dishwasher use will gradually create a dull, hazy surface on your silver.
- If you wish to clean the deep crevices of your silver, use a very soft brush or cotton swab (*never use steel wool*) with polish. Note that the recessed areas are usually intended to be darker to highlight

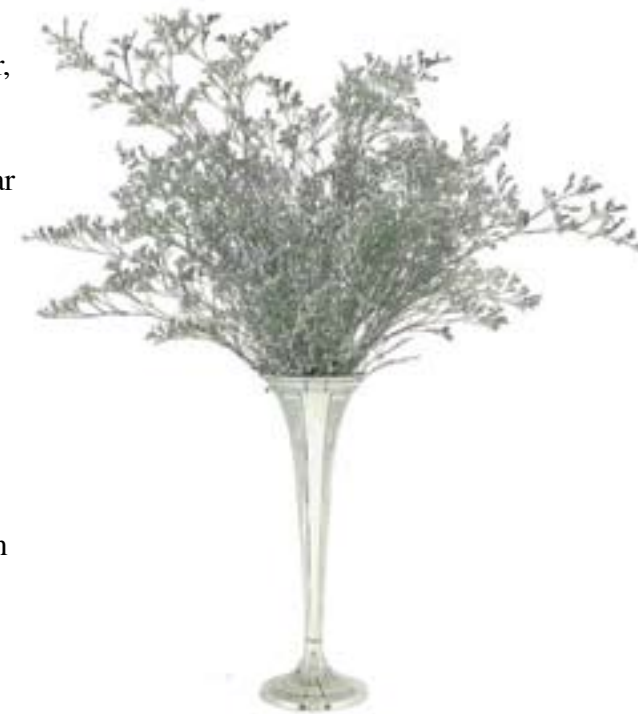
your pattern. Even the softest brush may scratch, so be sure to repolish the raised areas with a soft applicator and Silver Cream.

- Store silver away from air and heat. For everyday flatware, use an airtight chest or drawer. For long-term storage, polish first with Wright’s Anti-tarnish Silver Polish, then seal in heavy plastic bags. Avoid newspaper, rubber bands, plastic wrap, tissue paper, aluminum foil, and new white flannel. Check all silver in long-term storage once or twice a year and polish if necessary.

- Never place fresh flowers and water in direct contact with any metal vase. Use a glass or plastic liner to protect from corrosion.

- If you own a large collection of silverware, rotate the pieces so the entire set will develop an even patina.

- Enjoy your silver and take pride in its beauty. If you polish before heavy tarnish builds up, caring for your silver is simple and rewarding.



Creating an Heirloom: The Art and



For nearly a century, craftsmen at Lunt Silversmiths of Greenfield,

Massachusetts, have painstakingly produced sterling silver flatware and hollowware. The skill and detail required to handcraft sterling is evident in every piece of silver made at Lunt. Their work, which is created with the highest quality of craftsmanship and design, is destined to become tomorrow's heirloom.

Before your sterling fork graces the table, it must be transformed from a rectangle of sterling silver (called a blank) to a work of art. Next time you set the table, consider that there are 30 steps in the creation of each piece of sterling flatware. The skill and attention to detail required to handcraft a piece of sterling flatware has been handed down from generation to generation. Each piece is made to be a part of your heirloom collection to be enjoyed for years and years to come. Here are just a few steps in evolution of a fork:

Work of a Master Silversmith

1 DESIGNING: Each of Lunt's patterns starts at the hands of a talented designer from whose sketches prototypes are handmade and then tested for popularity by consumer groups. After a pattern has been selected, it is hand-sculpted into a large clay model from which a master die maker creates a hard tool steel die (see photo at left). Dies are inserted into presses that stamp the pattern. Each piece in the pattern requires a separate die. It can take up to a year to fashion the entire set of dies.

2 BLANKING: Pure silver and copper are melted in a furnace to make the sterling alloy. Molten metal is molded into sheets that are cut to the appropriate length and thickness for spoons, forks, and knives.

3 STRIKING: The most dramatic point of creation occurs when each blank is inserted into a striking die where it is instantaneously transformed from a blank to a nearly finished piece by thousands of tons of force.

4 TRIMMING: Each piece is trimmed on abrasive wheels and belts to define and smooth its edges.

5 POLISHING: The trimmed piece is first buffed on a cloth wheel and then polished to a fine finish, giving it the desired luster. Each piece is inspected between every manufacturing step and must pass the test of uncompromising quality in the final inspection.



1



Setting Your Table



ating at home, whether it's casual lunch with family, a holiday open house, or a formal dinner party for clients, should be relaxed and fun. Selecting the menu and setting the table are expressions of yourself. How you present your table reflects who you are and how you feel — elegant or whimsical, bold or romantic, festive or subdued. It is an opportunity to be imaginative and share yourself with those you care about.

Over the years, home entertaining has evolved from precise protocol to creative diversity. But the basic elements of the table — dinnerware, glassware, flatware, linens, and centerpiece — have not changed for centuries. Coordinating these components for a total look is the key to a unique and pleasing table. Of course, people expect the fork on the left, knife on the right, with the plate in the middle, but the formality stops there.





Using Your Imagination



Mix your heirloom silver with extra pieces you've collected over the years. Patterns don't have to match, a pearl-handled butter knife complements an ornate silver spoon. Don't worry about having an extensive inventory or matching pieces – your style comes from the way you blend the elements. Combine antique with contemporary or decorative with primitive. Be imaginative and witty with accents and centerpieces. Polish a round silver tray to shine a set



a flowering cabbage on it as a centerpiece for a harvest meal. Place colorful Christmas ornaments or marbles in a stemmed candy dish.

Or arrange a miniature dried wildflower bouquet in a silver baby



cup. Your guests will appreciate the care you've taken to create a pleasant and engaging atmosphere. The



most important ingredient in successful home

entertaining is organization — planning ahead so you can spend most of your time enjoying the company of your guests. If you have questions, problems, or need information on home entertaining, libraries and bookstores have many books and magazines that cover everything from how to word a difficult invitation to delaying dinner for late guests. They also include diagrams on appropriate flatware selections and table settings for every conceivable party.



Giving the Perfect Gift: Silver



The presentation of silver on special occasions dates back to ancient Greece and Rome. Today, the custom of giving silver continues—from marking a birth with a silver baby spoon, to awarding an athlete a trophy. In all situations, a silver gift is a treasured symbol, a tangible reminder of an important occasion, achievement, milestone, or sentiment. When the time comes for you to honor the significant events and people in your life, consider giving a truly memorable gift — silver.



The Sons of Liberty Bowl

In 1768 America's most noted silversmith, Paul Revere, was commissioned to make a silver bowl for the presentation to members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The bowl, simple in design with curved sides and a splayed foot, is considered the most important piece of early American silver in existence. It commemorates the events that led to the American Revolution, in particular a vote in response to the Townshend Acts, an import tax that replaced the Stamp Act. American resistance of the new tax was met with an ultimatum by the British to rescind their appeal of these acts. The bowl is engraved with a famous inscription.

The "Revere Bowl" soon became an icon of American resistance and a symbol of our freedom. Silvermaking was one of the first crafts to thrive in the New World, thus further separating us from dependence on Britain. Boston was a principal



"To the Memory of the glorious NINETY-TWO: Member of the Hon'bl House of Representatives of the Massachusetts-Bay, who, undaunted by the insolent Menaces of Villains in Power, from a Strict Regard to Conscience, and the LIBERTIES of their Constituents, on the 30th of June 1768, Voted NOT TO RESCIND."

GIFT BY SUBSCRIPTION AND FRANCES BARTLETT FUND. COURTESY, MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

center for both silversmithing and political protest. These facts combined with Paul Revere's patriotism have linked silver to our history and tied it to our identity as Americans. Today thousands of replicas of Paul Revere's liberty bowl are sold as gifts. The original can be seen at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts, the city of its origin.

Gift Ideas

Sterling flatware is an elegant and lasting gift. Through the years, the bridal registry has been the backbone of wedding gift giving, and flatware is a vital part of this tradition. Today you are able to register your pattern at a store even if you are not a bride-to-be. You can direct gift givers to the name of your pattern and the pieces you need, building a set piece by piece over time. Sterling flatware is the most permanent part of a tableware collection. When you select it for a gift, you are creating a family heirloom.

The standard five-piece place setting consists of a place fork, place knife, salad/dessert fork, teaspoon, and soup or place spoon. A "complete" place setting includes a butter spreader. If your budget is limited, you can easily start with a three-piece setting (place fork, knife, and teaspoon). Sterling patterns are open stock, so you can assemble any size place settings plus an assortment of serving pieces that suit your lifestyle. For more information on choosing sterling flatware, consult the bridal registry of your local department store.

Other silver gift ideas include: candlesticks, water pitcher, monogrammed tray, napkin rings, baby cup and spoon, identification bracelet, letter opener, tie rack, souvenir spoons, and jewelry.



ANNIVERSARY GIFTS



1st	Paper, Plastics, Clocks	29th	New Furniture
2nd	Calico, Cotton, China	30th	Pearl, Diamond
3rd	Leather, Crystal, Glass	31st	Time Pieces
4th	Silk, Electrical Appliances, Fruit, Flowers	32nd	Conveyances (<i>including automobiles</i>)
5th	Wood, Silverware	33rd	Amethyst
6th	Iron, Wood, Candy	34th	Opal
7th	Copper, Wool Desk Sets	35th	Coral, Jade
8th	Electrical Appliances, Linen Lace, Bronze, Pottery	36th	Bone China
9th	Pottery, Willow, Leather	37th	Alabaster
10th	Tin, Aluminum, Diamond Jewelry	38th	Beryl, Tourmaline
11th	Steel, Fashion Jewelry, Accessories	39th	Lace
12th	Linen, Silk, Pearl, Colored Gems	40th	Ruby
13th	Lace, Textiles, Furs	41st	Land
14th	Gold Jewelry	42nd	Improved Real Estate
15th	Crystal, Glass, Watches	43rd	Trips
16th	Silver Hollowware	44th	Groceries
17th	Furniture	45th	Sapphire
18th	Porcelain	46th	Original Poetry Tributes
19th	Bronze	47th	Books
20th	Platinum, China	48th	Optical (<i>spectacles, microscopes, telescopes</i>)
21st	Brass, Nickel	49th	Luxuries of any kind
22nd	Copper	50th	Gold
23rd	Silver Plate	55th	Emerald
24th	Musical Instruments	60th	Diamond Jubilee
25th	Silver	80th	Diamond & Pearl
26th	Original Pictures	85th	Diamond & Sapphire
27th	Sculpture	90th	Diamond & Emerald
28th	Orchids	95th	Diamond & Ruby
		100th	10-Carat Diamond

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Caring for Your Jewelry



The first step in cleaning your jewelry is to determine the material(s) that make up your jewelry. Then consult the following chart for the specific care for each material. Choose a cleaning method that will not damage any of the material(s) in your jewelry.

■ **Using Wright's Jewelry Care:** Place jewelry in basket and gently agitate for up to one minute. Use brush as needed for heavily soiled and recessed areas. Rinse and dry. Lengthy soaking does not improve the effectiveness of the product. Discard product when noticeably dirty or after three months of regular use.

■ **Home Ultrasonic Cleaning Machines:**

These machines vibrate cleaning solution around your jewelry

and are not any more effective than gently agitating jewelry in Wright's Jewelry Care. Check our chart to be sure your jewelry is compatible with the machine. Wright's Jewelry Care can be used as the cleaning solution in home ultrasonic machines.

■ **Here are some examples that may help you in cleaning your jewelry:**

Silver – To maintain shine, silver jewelry must be polished with silver polish. Jewelry cleaner will remove dirt and oils but not tarnish from silver.

14K Gold Chain – Place chain in Jewelry Care basket and gently agitate for about a minute. Rinse and pat dry.

Gold Watch – Swish the gold watchband in Jewelry Care, taking care not to wet the watch. Rinse well and dry.

Stringed Necklace – Do not use any liquid cleaners. The liquid may eventually rot the string. It is also very difficult to dry the beads thoroughly.





“I recently went on a cruise in the Caribbean. After a few days of swimming in the ship’s pool, I found the chlorine had severely tarnished my bracelets. I happened upon your product in a local grocery store. After the simple polishing process, my bracelets took on a shine I have never seen before. I have worn about ten bracelets every day for many years, but since I’ve used your polish, people are commenting on them more than ever before. When I returned home, I feared I had found a great product that I probably would not be able to find again. I was thrilled to read your packaging and discover that it is made in New Hampshire!”

**Jacqueline M. Smith
Portland, Maine**

Silver and Turquoise Bracelet –

Polish silver with one of Wright’s Silver polishes. If some silver polish gets on the turquoise, simply rinse it away. Clean turquoise with soft cloth only.

Opal Stone in a Gold Ring

– Do not immerse opal in any cleaner. Opals contain up to ten percent water and their color and sparkle is best maintained by periodic soaking in distilled water.

JEWELRY CARE GUIDELINES

	Use Wright’s Jewelry Care	Use Soft Cloth/ No Cleaners	Avoid Home Ultrasonics
Agate	•		
Amber		•	•
Amethyst	•		
Aquamarine	•		•
Citrine	•		
Coral		•	•
Costume Jewelry		•	•
Cubic Zirconia	•		
Diamond	•		
Emerald	•		•
Garnet	•		•
Gold	•		
Hematite	•		
Ivory		•	•
Jade	•		•
Lapis Lazuli	•		•
Malachite		•	•
Marcasite		•	•
Onyx	•		
Opal		•	•
Pearl		•	•
Peridot	•		•
Platinum	•		
Ruby	•		
Sapphire	•		
Sea Shells		•	•
Silver*	•		
Spinel	•		
Tanzanite	•		•
Topaz	•		•
Tourmaline	•		•
Turquoise		•	•
White Gold	•		
Zircon	•		•

* Use Wright’s Silver Polishes to remove tarnish. Jewelry Care only removes dirt and oils.

Asking for Help:

Consumer Hotline Questions & Answer

Q How do I polish my pewter?

A Pewter varies in finish from highly reflective to dull matte, depending on its composition and manufacture. First, polish with Wright's Silver Cream, which is best for reflective surfaces. If the results are not satisfactory, then try polishing with Wright's brass polish. Pewter is highly susceptible to pitting from corrosion, which may in some cases be corrected by polishing. Severe cases will need professional restoration.

Q My silver looks shiny, but my cloth still gets blackish should I keep polishing?

A No, stop once your silver looks clean and shiny. There will always be a slight residue on your cloth.

Q Will your silver cream work on my brass?

A It will do no harm, but it won't be very effective. Use our brass polish for best results. Never use brass or copper polish on silver; they are too abrasive.

Q Are your products dangerous? Why do they say, "Keep out of reach of children"?

A This is simply a general warning. All cleaning products should be kept from children regardless of their ingredients. Wright's products are not toxic, but they should not be ingested or come in contact with eyes.

Q Which is better – Wright's silver Cream or Wright's Anti-Tarnish Silver Polish?

A Both products polish silver and can be used on silver. Wright's silver Cream is an ideal polish for regular, routine care for all silver as well as for heavily tarnished silver. Wright's Anti-Tarnish Silver Polish leaves an invisible, non-hazardous, wax-like coating that slows the formation of tarnish. It is ideal for silver left out on display or silver in long-term storage.

Q How do I know whether my silver is plated or sterling?

A American sterling products produced after 1907 will be stamped "sterling"



Q I am polishing a silver piece, but it is getting increasingly dull, what is the matter?

A You may be polishing a piece that has been plated and the plating has worn through to the metal. Use and polishing will gradually wear through plating. There is great variability in the thickness of silver plating and its longevity. Silver can be repaired and replated. Consult a jeweler or our resource section for further information.

Q Is it safe to eat off my flatware after polishing with Wright's?

A Yes, it's perfectly safe to eat or cook with silver or stainless items after using Wright's silver polishes.

HEAVY TARNISH ON SILVER

Most of the questions we receive are about this subject. Unfortunately, there is no magic wand or easy answer to eliminate excessive tarnish. Start by polishing with Wright's Silver Cream. Apply solid pressure in a circular motion for several minutes, rinse, and assess your progress. Do not use steel wool or coarse cleaners.

In extreme cases, try electrochemical removal of tarnish. We do not recommend regular use of this method because it leaves a dull finish and may permanently damage your silver.

If the preceding steps do not remove tarnish, consult jewelers or silversmiths for advice. They often have equipment to mechanically buff out deep tarnish.

800-837-8140

Q I'm very concerned about our ecology and prefer to use only "earth friendly" products. What is the environmental impact of your polishes?

A All Wright's products are formulated for low environmental impact. You will find that you need to use only a small amount of our polishes, therefore decreasing the impact further.

Q I have a piece of silver-colored metal, and I don't know which of your polishes to use.

A The procedure we recommend is this: Start with Wright's Silver Cream on a small spot; if it shines, continue. If the piece remains dull, it may not be silver. Try Wright's Brass polish on an inconspicuous spot to see if this works.



LACQUER

Lacquer is a clear coating often applied to brass or copper. Silver is seldom lacquered because lacquer yellows with age, and this discoloration is highly visible and unattractive on silver, while not as noticeable on other metals.

Metals are either lacquered or polished, the latter resulting in a superior surface patina or glow. Lacquered surfaces require little upkeep. Many people ask us how they can tell if their piece is lacquered. If you purchased the piece, check the manufacturer's care instructions. If the tag indicates that the piece is to be maintained by wiping with a damp cloth only (no polish), then it is lacquered. If the object in question is an antique or was acquired without instructions, see if the piece remains bright and shiny for a long time. If it does, most likely it is lacquered. If it darkens noticeably over a period of time, it is not lacquered and needs polishing.

Over time, lacquers break down and the underlying metal darkens. To restore the piece, you will have to remove the remaining lacquer. There are a number of different lacquers, so you may have to experiment to see what will remove your particular coating. Start with Wright's Brass polish and try to polish off the lacquer. If this does not work, try boiling the piece in water, then polish with Wright's Brass polish. Finally, try Wright's brass polish with a fine-grade steel wool. Be aware that the brass under the lacquer may be thin plating over a base metal. Removing the lacquer may also remove the brass layer.

Learning More

GLOSSARY

alloy: a mixture of two or more metals.

base metal: an alloy or non-precious metal to which a coating or plating is applied.

brass: an alloy of primarily copper and zinc in varying proportions.

bronze: an alloy of primarily copper mixed with tin in varying proportions.

coin silver: an alloy of 90% silver and 10% copper. (Pieces are sometimes marked C or PC.)

copper: a ductile, malleable, reddish-brown metallic element.

electroplating: electrical deposition of a metal or alloy on the surface of another metal.

flat handle: silverware handles made of one solid metal piece.

flatware: knives, forks, spoons, and serving pieces.

german silver or nickel silver: a silver-white alloy made of copper, zinc, and nickel. It contains no silver and should be polished with Wright's Brass Polish.

gold: precious metal used widely in jewelry because of its malleable and non-reactive properties.

gold plate: a layer of pure gold bonded over a base metal.

hallmark: an official stamp placed on gold and silver articles, denoting purity, date, silversmith, or place of origin.

hollow handle: silverware handles made of two halves soldered together. Knives, butter spreaders, and serving utensils often have hollow handles.

hollow ware: a general term for large objects used for containment and decoration, like bowls, pitchers, teapots, and serving dishes.

karat: a unit of measure of pureness of gold. Pure gold is 24K and 18K gold is an alloy made of 18 parts gold and 6 parts of another metal, usually copper.

oxidize: the process of enhancing a design or pattern by causing a reaction that darkens certain details.

patina: elegant satiny shine made of thousands of microscopic scratches developed with time and use.

pewter: an alloy of primarily tin with antimony and copper. The

composition had varied over time. Early pewter often contained lead.

silver plate: a layer of pure silver electroplated to a base metal, usually an alloy of nickel, copper, or brass.

stainless steel: an alloy of steel and chromium that is designed to be more resistant to rust and corrosion.

sterling silver: an alloy of 32.5% pure silver and 7.5% copper (sided for strength). The stamp "sterling" reflects uniform quality and originated as the standard for silver coins in England.

stermeil: silver, bronze, or copper that is overlaid with a thin coat of gold or gliding.

white gold: a pale alloy of gold and nickel, silver, platinum, or palladium that resembles platinum.



PLACES TO GO

Museums in the United States with noteworthy collections of silver:

Albany Institute of History and Art,
Albany, New York

The Art Institute of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois

Baltimore Museum of Art,
Baltimore, Maryland

The Brooklyn Museum,
Brooklyn, New York

The Charleston Museum,
Charleston, SC

Cincinnati Art Museum,
Cincinnati, Ohio

Cleveland Museum of Art,
Cleveland, Ohio

Colonial Williamsburg,
Williamsburg, Virginia

The Connecticut Historical Society,
Hartford, Connecticut

The Cooper-Hewitt Museum,
New York, New York

Corcoran Gallery of Art,
Washington, D.C.

Dallas Museum of Art,
Dallas, TX

Detroit Institute of Arts,
Detroit, Michigan

The Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco,
San Francisco, California

Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum,
Winterthur, Delaware

High Museum of Art,
Atlanta, Georgia

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Houston Museum of Fine Arts,
Houston, Texas

Maryland Historical Society,
Baltimore, Maryland

The Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York, New York

The Minneapolis Museum of Arts,
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**The Museum of Art, Rhode Island
School of Design,**
Providence, Rhode Island

Museum of the City of New York,
New York, New York

Museum of Southern Decorative Arts,
924 South Main Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27108

The Museum of Fine Arts,
Boston, Massachusetts



National Museum of American Art,
Washington, D.C.

National Museum of American History
Washington, D.C.

The New York Historical Society,
New York, New York

Newark Museum,
Newark, New Jersey

North Carolina Museum of Art,
Raleigh, North Carolina

Philadelphia Museum of Art,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Saint Louis Art Museum,
St. Louis, Missouri

Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute,
Williamstown, Massachusetts

The Toldeo Museum of Art,
Toledo, Ohio

Wadsworth Atheneum,
Hartford, Connecticut

Yale University Art Gallery,
New Haven, Connecticut

RESOURCES & REFERENCES

Beverly Bremer Silver Shop
3164 Peachtree Road, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30305
Tel: 800-270-4009
Replacement flatware and broad
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Silver information Center
60 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10165
Tel: 212-949-7872, Fax: 212-949-7051
Web site: www.silverinfo.com

Society of American Silversmiths
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“Silver: A Mineral of Excellent Nature,”
National Geographic magazine,
September 1981, pp. 280-313

Silver, Jessie McNabb, The Smithsonian
Illustrated Library of Antiques, prepared
by Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 1981

Early American Silver, Martha Gandy
Fales, E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc.,
New York, 1973

Marks of American Silversmiths,
Robert Alan Green, 1984, Robert Alan
Green Publisher
214 Key Haven Road
Key West, FL 33040



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