

Caring for Your Pewter Cross

What is pewter?

Pewter is a white metal alloy consisting principally of tin, with small amounts of antimony and copper.

Does pewter tarnish?

No. However, over time it will patina (darken) in color. This unique aging is what endears many people to pewter. Its original luster may be preserved with the finest steel wool (0000) and a gritty toothpaste.

What can cause it to darken?

Storing it in a jewelry box ~ every jewelry box emits trace amounts of sulfur and sulfur will tarnish, pit and blacken almost any metal. (Should you use a jewelry box, place your cross in a zip-lock air-tight bag.)

Pewter does not oxidize like silver, but it can stain from acids and certain chemicals. Hard water and certain detergents may dull the finish over time.

We do not recommend the use of any chemicals, polishes, dips or polishing cloths. Sometimes just a little bit of the polishing and acid-based cleaning agents will have a very negative effect on the pewter. The result of using traditional metal cleaning solutions is that the pewter cross can turn a dull and dirty gray/black color. Please DO NOT use silver dips or polishes, Brasso, or any other kind of off the shelf metal cleaner.

How can I clean it?

Pewter can be washed in warm soapy water using mild detergent and can be polished occasionally using pewter polish if pewter becomes dull.