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Material description, sterling silver

The precious metal silver comes from the element Argentum, the Latin word meaning "bright" or "shining." Discovered sometime around 4000 BCE, silver ore was first mined in order to make ornamental objects.

In the 11th and 12th century, in what we now call the British Isles, silver pennies were printed with a small star. A penny like this was called a *steorling* (most likely pronounced like "sterling") in Old English, meaning "coin with star." These *steorlings* were made up of 92.5% pure silver, with an alloy of 7.5% copper, just like sterling silver today. It was discovered that the alloy was just as beautiful as pure silver, but stronger by leaps and bounds.

Many recognized the advantage of a precious metal that was both beautiful and durable: two traits that are ideal in a favorite piece of jewelry.

Product care, sterling silver

Sterling silver is unlikely to tarnish. However, all metals have the potential to develop the darker patina over time, especially in storage. To prevent this from happening, we recommend wearing your sterling silver jewelry often! The natural oils in your skin will form a protective layer on the metal's surface. When it comes to storing jewelry for a long time, an airtight plastic bag can work wonders to prevent tarnishing. Using a polishing cloth frequently will also maintain the inherent shine in your sterling silver.

If you notice tarnish and a polishing cloth isn't doing the trick, you can use a liquid polishing agent for sterling silver. Please be cautious: silver polish may damage precious gemstones or pearls. There are liquid polishing agents out there that are safe for gems and pearls, but all in all, following our preventative advice will generally keep your sterling silver jewelry happy and tarnish-free for many years to come!