

Gems and precious metals are gifts of nature, which need special care. Even though a gem may be millions of years old, once mined and worn, it is exposed to conditions and chemicals that can damage it.

Here are some Do's and Don'ts:

### **Don't**

- Don't wear fine jewelry when doing housework or gardening.
- Don't heap your jewelry into one drawer. Remember a diamond ring can scratch that pearl necklace. Keep them separate and ideally in a box or wrapped in velvet, paper, or silk.

### **Do**

- Do check for loose stones frequently by gently tapping the piece with your finger near your ear.
- Do get pearls restrung every two years or annually with frequent use.
- Do clean fine jewelry often to maintain its sparkle and beauty. Do not use toothpaste as its abrasives can damage softer gems and metals. All fine jewelry can be safely cleaned by soaking for 10 minutes in a mild cleaner specifically made for jewelry or in warm soapy water (using a non-detergent soap). Use a soft brush on harder gems to loosen any dirt around the prongs. To reduce greasy build-up on diamond jewelry, dip it in plain alcohol before soaking.