



## Removing Silver Tarnish

The following is a method to quickly remove the dark tarnish that can occur on Sterling Silver items. It will also clean up the edges and ends of Gold Filled jewelry - the base metal parts that might be exposed. The tarnish is a sulfide that develops on the surface of the metal. This process utilizes an Electrochemical (Galvanic) Reduction to remove the sulfides - using basic household ingredients.

### What You Need:

**Glass or plastic container** – we find that a glass baking dish works well. Avoid metal containers as they can interfere with the galvanic reaction at work.

**Aluminum foil.** Heavy duty.

**Washing Soda.** If you can't locate washing soda then you can use baking soda, although washing soda is more effective.

**Hot water.** Not boiling, but hotter water works better.

### The Process:

- Line the bottom and sides of the container with the aluminum foil.
- Place a small heap of the soda on the foil. (If you are using a glass cake baking dish start with about a third cup of washing soda – a little more if you are using baking soda)
- Add the hot water. Stir a little to help dissolve the soda.
- Place the jewelry items in the solution on the foil. They **MUST** contact the foil. You should see some slight bubbly action and perhaps a slight sulfur odor. If not then add a little more soda.
- The cleaning process should only take a few seconds. When clean remove and rinse the items. If needed, you can follow up with a soft jewelry cleaning cloth.

### Notes:

- The foil will gray and darken with use. When this occurs it impedes the galvanic process at work, just replace it with a new sheet.
- Use caution with soft gemstones such as Turquoise and Lapis. Leaving them too long in the solution will dull their finish.