

Sterling Silver: Facts & Myths

There are no shortage of misunderstandings when it comes to sterling silver. Please read over these facts and myths; it will help clear up some confusion!

Sterling silver is an *alloy*, which means that it is a mixture of two or more metals. Quality sterling has an all copper alloy while poor sterling will contain less desirable metals such as nickel. Alloy is added to give strength to the sterling.

“925” refers to a standard which is 92.5% pure silver and 7.5% alloy... no matter what that alloy is.

There is a small percentage of the public who is allergic to sterling even if it has an all-copper alloy, however if there is nickel present the possibility of allergy is much more common.

Sterling *does* tarnish... In fact the best sterling does so more readily due to its copper content. It can be restored with a jewelry polishing cloth.

The truth is *anyone can stamp anything* with a 925 stamp but according to Canadian law that mark is to be accompanied by a registered trademark stamp.

Some artists do not use a 925 stamp, as we may not have a registered trademark. Rest assured it is not to our advantage to use poor metals; they are extremely hard to work with and we want our businesses to thrive in accordance with ethical practice.

Thank you from small business jewellers everywhere!!!

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