

# **Rhodium Plated over Sterling Silver**

Some of my items are bought from various places around the world and are rhodium plated.

Although rhodium plating is commonly used in jewellery, not many people know what it is. Rhodium plating is used to enhance the lustre and durability of metals such as silver and white gold and gives a smooth, shiny finish to the jewellery. It is especially attractive when used for diamond rings, as it can really enhance the brilliance of the diamond. However, there are some downsides to choosing rhodium plating, such as the time and money involved in ongoing re-plating over the years. Not sure if rhodium plating is something you want to deal with? Here we outline the 10 things you need to know about rhodium plating before you buy.

Rhodium plating, also known as rhodium dip or rhodium flashing, is used to increase the durability, lustre and light reflection of a piece of jewellery. Because it is a hard metal, a rhodium plated piece of jewellery will be more scratch resistant. Rhodium plating is mainly used on silver-hued metals, such as white gold, palladium or silver. Most rhodium plating has a thickness of .75 to 1.0 microns.



Rhodium plated jewellery like this ring show a highly polished finish.

Sterling silver is a white metal and does not necessarily need rhodium plating to acquire its colour. However, it tends to tarnish over time. To prevent this, rhodium plating silver jewellery will ensure that the piece is highly lustrous and remains tarnish-free for a long time.

Over time, as the plating wears off, the white of the silver will come through, but will not be noticeable like gold. Those exposed sections may acquire some tarnish, but this can easily be polished at home.

You may not require your sterling silver rhodium plated item to be re plated, as the colour matches that of sterling silver underneath.