



Information for Caring for Silverplate Flatware

1. Hand Wash Only

The normal advice for all plated flatware is to avoid washing it in the dishwasher. Wash your plated silverware by hand, in warm soapy water, with a soft sponge or cloth, then rinse and dry with a dry, clean towel. Don't use harsh chemicals or gritty products. Don't over-scrub or wash too often.

2. Use the Right Soap

Any mild dish soap should do, but make sure to use an acid-free soap or detergent with a neutral pH that is free of phosphates and does not contain lemon or another citric acid, as those ingredients can be overly corrosive.

3. Rinse Quickly

Wash silver-plated flatware as quickly as possible after use. At the very least, rinse to remove food from the items after use and don't let them sit dirty. Acidic foods (egg yolks, brussels sprouts, table salt, olives, salad dressing, vinegar, fruit juices, etc.) can corrode silver if left in contact with it for too long.

4. Dry Carefully

Water is the enemy of silverware. Don't leave your plated ware soaking in water for too long, and make sure to dry it thoroughly with a soft cloth as soon as possible to prevent tarnish.

5. Do NOT Over polish

Surprisingly, silver flatware does not need regular polishing and should not be cleaned or polished more than absolutely necessary. Instead of using a chemical polish, if it looks just a little dull, use a polishing cloth. If you care for and store the silverware properly, you will reduce the build-up of tarnish and the need to use polish. Only use silver polish when absolutely necessary, or you'll rub the silver plate off the silverware.

What About the Knife Blades?

Remember that your flatware knife blades will most likely be stainless steel, and they should be cleaned with that metal in mind.

6. Avoid Abrasives

On the occasions when you do need to polish your silverplate flatware, only use a good quality silver polish or cream, not a standard metal polish, which will be too abrasive. If you need to, use a brush with very soft bristles for crevices. Do not, under any circumstance, use wire wool or abrasive cloth to remove stains; this will scratch and damage the silver. As mentioned, polish as seldom as possible since a small amount of metal will be removed each time.

7. Do Not Use Rubber or Latex Gloves

If you wear gloves, make sure that they are made of cotton because rubber gloves contain sulphur that may promote tarnish. Don't wear rubber or latex gloves, and don't let clean silver touch a rubber drying mat.

8. Store Properly

It is important to store your silver flatware properly to prevent scratching, corrosion, and tarnish. Wrap your flatware in tarnish-resistant flannel cloth, acid-free tissue paper, or undyed cotton or linen, or keep it in a flannel-lined drawer. Since air is the cause of tarnish, make sure to keep it in an airtight container. If you don't use it every day, consider storing it in a zip-top plastic bag (Note: don't use rubber bands and avoid storage boxes or chests with rubber seals.)