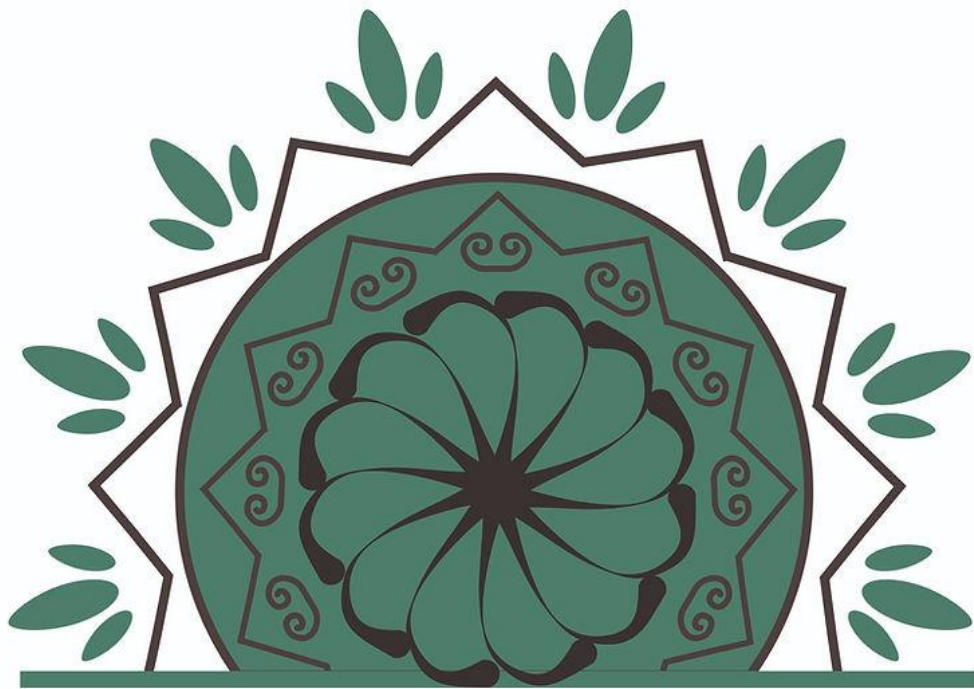


How to Spot Real Sterling Silver (And Avoid Costly Mistakes When Buying Online)

A Free Guide by IDenteco Jewellery



IDenteco

www.identecojewellery.com

Facebook, Instagram: @identecojewellery

Shopping for handmade silver jewelry online can be magical - but also risky. Is it truly sterling silver? Or just a shiny imposter?

At IDenteco Jewellery, we believe every buyer deserves to feel confident and informed. That's why we have created this simple, actionable guide to help you identify real sterling silver and avoid common traps.

✓ 1. The Basics: What Is Sterling Silver?

- **Sterling silver** = 92.5% pure silver + 7.5% other metals (usually copper)

This combination strengthens the piece while maintaining silver's beauty

Look for these marks:

- "925"
- "Sterling"
- ".925"
- **Hallmark stamps** from assay offices

✓ 2. Look for These Hallmarks

- Hallmarks are small, engraved symbols or numbers that indicate metal purity and origin. A true artisan brand will proudly show:

| Mark | What It Means |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 925 | 92.5% pure silver |
| Assay Office Symbol | Verified by a certified assay office |
| Maker's Mark | ID of the artisan who made it |

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✓ 3. At-Home Tests You Can Try

Simple, safe methods to do a basic check at home

- **The Magnet Test:**
Silver is **not magnetic**. If it sticks to a magnet? Not sterling.
- **The Rub Test:**
Rub the piece with a white cloth. If you see **black marks**, it's likely real (that's silver oxidizing).
- **The Smell Test:**
Real silver has *no strong metallic smell*. A fake or silver-plated item often smells like copper or nickel.

📷 4. Real vs. Fake: Spotting the Difference

| Feature | Real Sterling Silver | Fake or Plated |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Markings | 925, hallmark, maker's stamp | Often missing or vague |
| Weight | Heavier, solid feel | Lighter, hollow or plastic core |
| Finish | Subtle shine, may tarnish over time | Too shiny, overly glossy |
| Price | Fair but not cheap | Suspiciously low |

? 5. Ask These Questions Before You Buy Online

Before purchasing, ask the seller:

- Is this piece solid sterling silver or silver-plated?
- Are there hallmarks shown in the product photos?
- Where is it made?
- Is there a certificate of authenticity or assay stamp?

A transparent brand will answer all of these questions.

🌀 Why It Matters

Plated jewelry may look similar but:

- Wears out fast
- Can trigger skin reactions
- Has **no long-term value**

Investing in real sterling silver means beauty, durability, and meaningful craftsmanship — especially with **handmade** pieces like ours.



About IDenteco Jewellery

We're a Cyprus-based online store that features handmade jewellery and accessories from Armenian designers-jewellers with a goal to promote Armenian culture, art, history through its jewellery and fashion accessories.

In our online store you will find items made both from sterling silver and other materials.

✦ Discover our pieces on www.identecojewellery.com

Want More?

We send occasional tips, care guides, and early access to new designs to our email subscribers. Join the IDenteco family and become an informed, empowered jewelry lover.

👉 [Sign up here](#) to receive more insider info, exclusive offers, and handmade silver magic.