Are your trinkets tarnished? With this easy primer, you can make sure all that’s gold glitters once more.

**How to clean**
Jewelry experts swear that this homemade concoction works as well as chemical cleaners do: In a large bowl, mix 2 parts dish soap and 10 parts warm water. Soak jewelry for 3 hours, then gently scrub with a soft toothbrush. (This method is also safe for any pieces with diamonds.) Rinse in hot water. Dry thoroughly with a microfiber cloth, then polish with a jewelry cloth (available at most jewelry stores). Repeat as often as needed. And rejoice, squeaky-clean types: You can’t overclean gold.

**How to maintain**
Ideally you should take gold pieces to a jeweler annually to have them checked for loose parts. And while you’re there, get them steamed and buffed until they’re super shiny.

**How to store**
Your jewelry should be the last thing you put on in the morning and the first thing you take off at night. That way, your necklace won’t get spitzed with perfume, and your earrings won’t get caught in your clothes. To prevent scratches and tangles, separate pieces on velvet-lined trays, in boxes with compartments, or in small zipped plastic bags.

**3 common problems, solved**

**A knotted chain**
First, undo the clasp. Next, dab olive oil on the knot and lay the chain on a flat surface. Using 2 pins, set to work untangling the knot. Then clean the chain using the method at left.

**A broken chain**
Take it to a professional, who will solder the pieces together and add more gold as necessary. The price depends on the complexity. Simple solderings start at $20.

**Scratches**
Cleaning and polishing with a jewelry cloth will minimize the appearance of scratches. To remove a deep mark, seek out a pro. Prices start at about $35.

**Credits**
Page 36, Tiffany 18-karat-gold locket and chain, $2,125, tiffany.com. Thank you to Donna Distefano, goldsmith and fine jeweler of Donna Distefano Ltd., in New York City, Susan Eiser, ASA, master gemologist appraiser, and author of Crazy About Jewelry; Amanda Gizzi, spokesperson for the Jewelry Information Center, in New York City; Calla Gold, owner and custom designer of Calla Gold Jewelry, in Santa Barbara, California; Sally Morrison, head of jewelry PR at the World Gold Council, in New York City; and Mark J. Sandler, GG, CG, ASA, master gemologist appraiser.