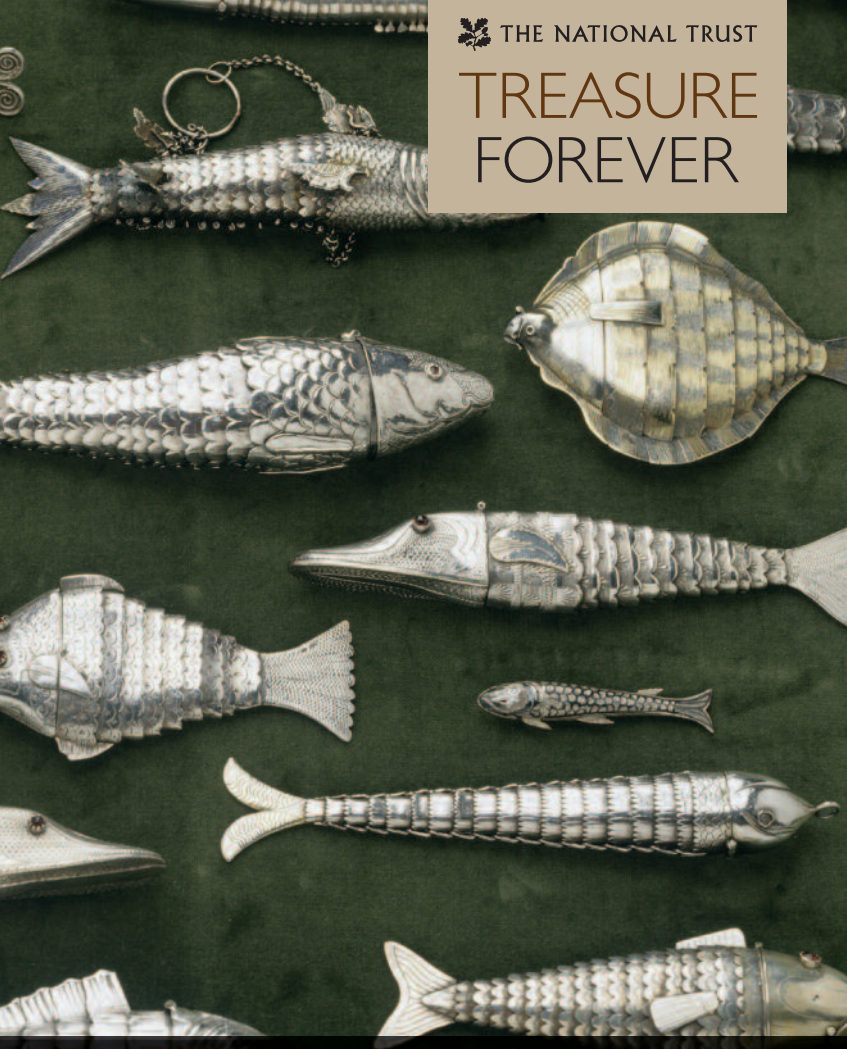




THE NATIONAL TRUST

TREASURE FOREVER



Caring for silverware

Treasure yours forever with this handy guide

Throughout history, silver and silver plating has been used to make a wide range of shimmering objects from tiaras to tableware. However, silver is a soft metal that often suffers from over-cleaning and poor handling. Tarnish forms when the surface is exposed to moisture, gases, dust and contaminants such as food.

- To prevent surface damage and excessive wear, clean silver with the correct materials, as infrequently as possible. Light cleaning with specialist silver cloths will avoid the need for abrasive cleaners.
- When handling silver, use thin vinyl or cotton gloves. Our hands leave oils and moisture on the surface, which mark and promote tarnish.
- Remove dust lightly with soft microfibre cloths or fine bristled artist brushes, covering metal ferrules with tape to prevent scratching of the surface.
- If you use silver objects for serving food and dining, wash the items separately using plastic bowls. Rinse in clean warm water and dry immediately to reduce the rate of tarnishing.
- When storing silver, use special tarnish-reducing bags and jewellery pouches to protect silver from dust and scratching. Do not wrap silver in newspaper as this will rapidly tarnish it, nor seal in Bubblewrap or plastic as these trap moisture.

If in doubt, consult a metal conservator via www.conservationregister.com or read the Trust's *Manual of Housekeeping*.

Extracted from 'Household Secrets: Advice from National Trust Experts' (2006) by Frances Halahan, ©The National Trust.

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