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If you love [silver jewelry](#), the good news is that this metal is so popular that there are many different pieces that you can choose from. The bad news is that it can be difficult to separate quality pieces from those that will not hold up to long term wear unless you know a little about this beautiful material.

[!:<http://www.webmarksolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/JanPavlik5.jpg>]

Pure silver has a few characteristics that do not make it good for making jewelry or other items. It is harder than gold but in its pure form is still very soft and malleable. This may mean that pure silver will not hold up well to daily wear.

Another issue that many people have with pieces made from this metal is that they will also turn color. Tarnishing, the process in which metal reacts with oxygen, will cause the bright, shiny metal to go darker and darker until it can become very black.

Instead of unalloyed metal, you may want to look for pieces where the base metal has been combined with other metals in order to give it more desirable properties. Sterling silver, a mixture of silver and copper, is much better for use in jewelry and other items that may need to take a bit of wear and tear. This is because it is much harder and more durable than pure metals would be.

[!:<http://www.webmarksolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/JanPavlik7.jpg>]

If you are looking for high quality silver pieces you want to make sure that they are made from durable silver alloy. You can find pieces such as rings, earrings, pendants and bracelets made out of this material. Some may be made only from one metal and others may be made from a combination of silver with accents that are made from other metals.

You can find pieces online and in jewelry stores. Some countries, such as Mexico, are known for their pieces and you may find craftsmen offering their wares in markets and roadside stands. If you maintain your jewelry properly by keeping it clean and storing it in a container that can prevent tarnishing, your pieces will look beautiful for years to come.

Author is expert in [silver jewelry](#). Silver.Ag (the company, he works for), have over 114.000 pcs of jewelry physically in stock. Nearly 550.000 customers worldwide are satisfied with Silver.Ag brand jewelry.

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