



SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL

Share the passion "passion for the beauty of crystal."

- What is SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL
- What is AUSTRIAN Crystal
- What is the best way TO CLEAN Crystal
- What is CRYSTAL JEWELLERY(JEWELERY)
- What are CRYSTAL FIGURINES
- WHAT DOES "CRYSTAL CLEAN" MEAN

Swarovski Crystal is one of the most recognized brands of crystals in the world today. Sold under the Swarovski luxury brand name, these crystals have been famous worldwide for their precision cuts, clarity, and sparkle. Swarovski crystals have made appearances in all pieces of jewellery imaginable, including necklaces and pendants, earrings & rings, stick-on tattoos, and tiaras. They are now even used as appliqués in clothing fashions and home decor, among myriad other things.

The Swarovski Company was first established in 1895 as a crystal cutting factory in the town of Wattens, Austria. Its founder, Czech-born Daniel Swarovski, invented the first automatic cutting machine in 1892. Three years after having patented crystal-glass abrasion methods using his machine, Swarovski moved to Wattens, where he could take full use of the local hydroelectric power there. Hydroelectric power lent his factory the intensive energy needed for his patented processes. The Swarovski Company first adopted the edelweiss flower as the logo until 1988, when it was replaced by the currently recognized swan. The logo appears on all sculptures manufactured by the company.

The characteristics of Swarovski crystals are unparalleled in both style and substance. Not only are their cuts distinct, but the assorted colours and shapes cover a broad spectrum. The brilliant sparkle of each crystal is actually resulted from a glass composition containing 32 percent lead. Besides this refraction maximizing strategy, special metallic coatings are used on some of the crystals to ensure that light refracts from the surface in a rainbow spectrum. One of the most utilized coatings is Aurora Borealis, simply known as "AB."

Share the passion "passion for the beauty of crystal."

Shop on line at www.aladinsilver.co.uk
on eBay at <http://stores.shop.ebay.co.uk/Aladins-Silver>



What is AUSTRIAN CRYSTAL

Austrian crystal is not a trademark in and of itself, but it might as well be. The generic term is indelibly linked with Swarovski crystals, produced in a factory in Wattens, Austria. The breakthrough that spawned them was more about mass production than individual beauty.

Swarovski was actually a German who invented an automatic crystal cutting machine while living in Prague, Czech Republic. His machine was patented in 1892, and Swarovski quickly became concerned that spies from other jewellery firms would ferret out his secret. Thus, in 1895, he moved his operation to Wattens, which offered the twin advantages of a semi-remote location and convenient water power.

Austrian crystal is man-made, essentially a creative cutting of hand-blown glass into every imaginable form of adornment. Swarovski's three sons have continued with the family business, branching out into everything from chandeliers to watches to computer parts to rhinestones and glass beads. What makes a Swarovski crystal unique is its composition. By adding 32 percent lead to the molten glass (a mix arrived at after considerable experimentation), Swarovski imbued his Austrian crystal with a high refraction rate. Later, he developed different chemical coatings to enhance colour and sparkle.

The company entered the American jewellery market rather late, in 1977, but has emerged as an icon. Austrian crystal has a reputation for fine workmanship but is also less expensive than jewellery made from precious stones. Austrian crystal also earned international attention during the 1976 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, when a mouse figurine crafted by Max Schreck from chandelier parts morphed into the mascot of those games, as well as launching a new product line [of Swarovski figurines](#). Swarovski's own corporate symbol has evolved from an edelweiss flower to a [swan](#).

The Swarovski empire has also proved a boon to tourism in Austria. Kristallwelten (Crystal World), a museum and showroom devoted to Austrian crystal, is the second most-visited attraction in the country. Perhaps the most bizarre presentation of Austrian crystal is a Mini Cooper "Art Car" owned by an Ontario couple that features a million Swarovski crystals.



WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO CLEAN CRYSTAL

Easily breakable and often valuable, crystal requires careful handling. Knowing how to clean crystal can minimize chances of damage. To clean crystal items like dinnerware, jewellery, [figurines](#) or chandeliers, the crystal cleaning must be done by hand.

Take a tub full of lukewarm water and add some mild soap and vinegar to it. Rinse dinnerware in this. With a soft-bristle toothbrush or a sponge pad, scrub gently to remove accumulated dirt

Keep the crystal immersed in the soapy vinegar rinse to get rid of spots or cloudy marks. A rinse made by dissolving a denture cleaning tablet in water is also effective. However, if the glass has developed too much cloudiness, the damage may be irreversible. It is best to try and prevent such clouding from happening altogether. The culprits are often strong detergents, so try to avoid those and use mild, home-made cleaners for everyday crystal cleaning.

If not, buy the best glass cleaners available in the market. Check the label to make sure the cleaning product does not contain any damaging ammonia in it whether using a home-made or store-bought rinse to clean crystal, hold the items under clean running water afterwards and wash well.

Spread out the dinnerware on a clean counter next. Never pile or heap one on top of another. Allow the items to air dry. Then polish each with a soft lint-free cloth to make the crystal sparkle.

Some of the cleaning techniques used for cleaning crystal dinnerware can be used to clean crystal figurines as well. If it is not feasible to soak the figurines in the rinse water, wet a newspaper in it and wipe them with that. With jewellery, where the settings might tarnish if soaked, the same procedure can be followed.

Dip a cloth in this rinse and carefully wipe the crystal. Follow up this wet wipe by wiping with a dry cloth. Spraying the crystal with the rinse would be faster, but wiping each part is a more thorough and more effective way to clean crystal chandeliers.



WHAT IS CRYSTAL JEWELLERY (JEWELLERY)

Crystal jewellery is jewellery made from natural quartz crystal. Both making and buying crystal jewellery is popular today. The sparkling beauty of clear natural crystal may also be enhanced with added colours and finishes. There are many types of finished crystal pieces of jewellery as well as crystal beads for creating jewellery available.

Swarovski is the oldest and most recognized name in crystal jewellery. It is an Austria-based four-generation family business. Swarovski crystals are known for their high quality, brilliance, and pure characteristics. Many jewellery designers that work with crystal use Swarovski crystal pendants and beads.

The colours of [Swarovski crystal](#) beads range from light to darker shades as well as transparent, bold, and smoky looks. The colour range covers reds, yellows, greens and blues, blacks and greys. One interesting Swarovski crystal colour, cantaloupe, changes from pink to green to grey depending on the angle of reflected light. Some colours of Swarovski quartz crystal have colouring added, such as the violets, greens and blues.

Some Swarovski crystal beads have an Aurora Borealis (AB) finish, which is a blend of rainbow colours. Since Swarovski crystal contains a minimum of 32% lead, many prisms are created when the cut crystal reflects light. The AB finish increases the effects by creating rainbow prisms of colour in the light.

Crystal beads are available in many sizes and shapes such as round faceted, cube, heart-shaped and bi-cone. Bi-cone crystal beads have tapered ends. Drop bi-cones have a hole on one end only so the bead drops down in jewellery such as earrings, necklaces and bracelets. Many different types of beaded crystal jewellery can be created to suit different fashion looks.

In addition to crystal beads, Swarovski and other companies make crystal pendants in shapes such as stars, teardrops, crosses, crescents and snowflakes. Completed crystal jewellery is sold, as well as beads and pendants to craft stores. Crystal beaded and pendant jewellery are popular for bridal fashions and these pieces are often clear with touches of the wedding colour.



WHAT ARE CRYSTAL FIGURINES

Crystal figurines are small decorative art pieces made from quartz crystal. Many people collect assorted crystal figurines to display in their homes. Some of these figurines are sold with a certificate of authenticity. A crystal figurine may be in the shape of an animal, flower, or other object such as an airplane or Christmas tree.

Christmas-themed crystal figurines include snowmen made of two or three sparkling round pieces with accent features. Animal crystal figurines are popular collectibles and include a wide range of animals and styles. For example, some are a more realistic likeness of an animal such as a crystal crocodile with detailed features, while others are more whimsical in design such as a crystal teddy bear wearing a party hat.

Crystal animal figurines may include several animals such as three crystal kittens in a glittering crystal basket. Popular animal shapes in crystal figurines include bears, rabbits, squirrels, horses, birds and mice. A crystal figurine may also be in the shape of an insect such as a butterfly, bee, ant, or dragonfly.

Flower figurines are also popular crystal collectibles. Single rose figurines in pale shades of coloured crystal can look quite elegant with long stems made from green crystal. Sea-themed crystal collectibles include lighthouses, as well as dolphins and seals. Some crystal figurines have nothing to do with nature, but instead are images of objects such as a piano or a train. A crystal figurine may include other materials, such as a clear crystal bird figure that has sterling silver feet.

Cut crystal reflects light brilliantly, due to the prisms created by its lead content which is why Swarovski crystal figurines are popular collectibles today and the company also makes a wide range of crystal jewellery and beads.

In 2008, Swarovski introduced a new crystal figurine collection based on The Disney Company's Bambi® characters. In addition to Bambi® the deer, the collection features Flower® the skunk and Thumper® the rabbit. Crystal figurines are commonly displayed in collections in a curio cabinet. They may also be placed on a fireplace mantle or glass shelves. Some people like to display crystal figurines on mirrors to further enhance their reflection and shine.

WHAT DOES “CRYSTAL CLEAN” MEAN

A whole family of related idioms include references to crystal. When something is “crystal clear,” for example, it means that it is very clearly stated and obvious, with no room for ambiguity or confusion. “Clear as crystal” is another idiom used to describe very clearly stated situations. All of these idioms reference lead crystal, a special type of glass with a very high refractive index which makes it sparkle more than ordinary glass, especially when it is faceted and polished.

Shop on line at www.aladinssilver.co.uk
on eBay at <http://stores.shop.ebay.co.uk/Aladins-Silver>