

Handling silver-plated products

Tarnish

The visible discolouration of a metal surface is generally referred to as “tarnish”. In the case of silver, it occurs due to the formation of a layer of silver sulphide (reaction of silver with sulphur in the air), which is characterised by a discolouration ranging from slightly yellow to a dark blue-brown. The electrical qualities (contact resistance) and functionality of silver-plated components are not affected by tarnish.

Tarnishing is a natural process and occurs on all silver surfaces. Although it cannot be prevented, it may be lessened to a certain degree. Because tarnishing (colour tone, rate) is mainly determined by exterior influences (air quality, contact), there are certain rules for handling silver that should be followed.

The following points should be observed when handling silver-plated products:

- Our components should be stored in **closed bags** whenever possible.
- **Avoid direct contact with skin.** Use of gloves is mandatory.
- **Food and drink** should **never come into contact** with silver-plated products.
- Silver-plated products should **not be stored in cardboard/wooden containers**. These materials are intended solely for the transport of silver-plated products. The products must be removed from the containers mentioned above for storage.
- An environment with **relative humidity of > 80%** and direct **sunlight/radiation** should be **avoided**. Storage temperatures should be maintained between 20 °C ± 10 °C.
- We recommend using a **clean PVC box with a lid** for **storage** to minimise the effects of environmental influences.