

ABI Precious Metals

Antiquing Sterilite

(De-ox sterling)

De-ox Sterling Silver can be blackened with liver of sulfur like traditional sterling, but it is important to follow proper procedures to achieve the best results.

Surface Preparation- This is the most important. After casting it is recommended to pickle the pieces in sodium bisulphate to clean the surface of contaminants and silicon residue that inhibits the penetration of the liver of sulfur into the metal. If the pieces are to be hand finished, then sand and prepare to polish as normal. For tumbled product the pieces should be cut down in an aggressive media. Finally clean in an ultrasonic cleaner, then rise in clean water.

Blackening- Mix a strong solution of liver sulphur with warm water about 65c do not boil it will destroy the solution. Now submerge pieces tied on a wire or in stainless steel or plastic strainer. Dipping in and out of the solution about every 30 seconds until pieces are dark black. The dipping action exposes the parts to air which speeds up the oxidizing process. (use solution for about 1 day and replace for best result.) Sometimes cold water works well when you want to slowly build up the surface. It takes longer and you will need to dip more often to prevent flaking caused by too heavy a layer of antiquing.

Finishing- Double rinse pieces in cool clean water and then either carefully hand polish or tumble in a fine cut down media to remove the black from the low areas. Tumbling in a fine cut down media will remove the antiquing from only the high spots giving a very uniform surface ready for final finishing. After final polish clean off compound with warm soapy water or steam carefully to avoid removing antiquing from details. Do not clean in ultrasonic it will remove the antiquing.

Please contact us if you require additional information.

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