

Ways To Test For Purity Of SILVERWARE



Hallmark

Look for silver markings given by the manufacturer. These indicate the purity of the silver.



Magnet Test

Silver will not strongly attract a magnet. If it does, there must be a ferromagnetic core and not silver.



Silver Acid Test

This test kit may be purchased from a jewelry store or online. Make a small scratch in the silver to get past the plating, and carefully add a drop of the acid to it. The color change gives the purity of the silver.

- Green: 500 or 50%
- Brown: 800 or 80%
- Darker Red: 925 or 92.5%
- Bright Red: Fine Silver
- Yellow: Lead or tin



Bleach Test

Put a drop of bleach on an inconspicuous area of the silver item. If it turns black, it is pure. However, silver-plated items will pass this test.

References

1. Silver-Plated Holloware - Lead Contamination; FDA
2. Sterling Silver or Silver Plated: 3 Simple Tests; Antiques Silver

