



## CARING FOR JEWELRY COLLECTIONS

# Tips for keeping your cherished pieces protected

Over \$1.7 billion worth of jewelry and precious metals are stolen annually, and just over 5% of those items are recovered.<sup>1</sup> Not surprisingly, theft is a leading cause of loss for our clients. We recently analyzed our top 200 jewelry insurance claims, and here's what we found:

- 7% resulted from accidental breakage
- 41% resulted from theft/deception
- 52% resulted from mysterious disappearance

You can minimize your exposure to loss by following some common-sense—though often overlooked—preventative measures.

### In your home

- Store jewelry in a safe and only remove it just before putting it on.
- Safes should be bolted into the structure of your home so they cannot be removed and broken into later.
- For high-valued collections, an Underwriters Laboratory-listed safe that is rated to withstand a two-hour burn is optimal.
- The first place thieves tend to look for jewelry is the master bedroom. Put your safe in a less obvious place. The bedroom can be used to house a “decoy” safe or one that only holds frequently worn items.
- Conduct background checks on private staff. Many jewelry thefts are inside jobs.

### While traveling

- Jewelry should be worn or kept on your person. Treat jewelry like a wallet—never let it out of sight.
- Keep a list of the items you are carrying. Leave a copy at home or in a place separate from the jewelry.
- Always store jewelry in the hotel safe or safe deposit box when it is not worn.
- Jewelry that is not worn in transit should be protected from damage in a padded jewelry portfolio—never in a checked bag.
- Wearing jewelry in airports and on commercial aircraft increases the chance of loss and can compromise personal safety. Consider shipping items to your destination instead.

### Shipping

- The risk of jewelry damage or loss is greatly elevated during shipping. Shipping should only be considered as a last resort.
- Valuable jewelry should only be shipped using specialized jewelry shipping services and not standard overnight services.
- When possible, identify local jewelers for all repairs, maintenance and appraisals.
- Shipping jewelry via a specialized jewelry shipper is also recommended when purchasing jewelry on vacation or transferring it to a seasonal residence.

For more information, contact your independent insurance advisor or email [collections.pcg@aig.com](mailto:collections.pcg@aig.com).



<sup>1</sup> [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2013/crime-in-the-u.s.-2013/tables/table-24/table\\_24\\_property\\_stolen\\_and\\_recovered\\_by\\_type\\_and\\_value\\_2013.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2013/crime-in-the-u.s.-2013/tables/table-24/table_24_property_stolen_and_recovered_by_type_and_value_2013.xls)

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