

Accent Gold for Silver™ Paint

One gram of **PURE 24k GOLD** powder dispersed in a non-toxic water based liquid medium. It is used to apply gold accents to fine silver jewellery pieces, including those made from PMC. Apply Accent Gold for Silver™ with either a brush or spatula to a silver piece, dry and then heating the piece to sinter the gold powder and also bond it to the silver. After cooling, the gold layer is burnished and the desired final finish is applied.

Note: Thin the paint with a drop of water if needed, but do not thin it too much or you will not be able to apply it in a sufficiently thick layer. This product can arrive dried out and just needs a couple of drops of distilled water to reconstitute the gold into a paste. This is completely normal. Please use a plastic toothpick or sewing needle to stir. This is due to the lack of binder and the finely ground gold.

How to Use

The paint should be about as thick as honey before use. If it is too thick, it can be thinned with a single drop of water followed by thorough mixing. Mixing should be done with a metallic object such as a straightened paper clip or a sewing needle to minimize adherence of the paint.

Method 1 – Firing in a Kiln or Furnace

If the paint is to be used on an item made from silver clay, fire the item first and allow it to cool. Do not burnish the fired silver piece before painting it, so that the surface remains rough to promote good adherence of the paint. If the piece has been handled after firing, be sure the area to be painted is clean and has not been contaminated with oils or dirt. If it has, clean the area first with a solvent such as acetone. Then apply Accent Gold for Silver™ paint by using a small clean artist's brush, or a spatula, being careful not to get it on unwanted areas. Be sure the brush is not contaminated with oils or other paint. Apply the Accent Gold for Silver™ paint in a reasonably smooth, thick layer. Daubing of the paint is preferable to brushing because it can be applied more easily in a relatively thick layer. The key to achieving a beautiful 24K layer after firing is to apply the paint in a fairly thick layer. Allow the first coat to dry thoroughly. If you have applied a layer thick enough that none of the silver base can be seen, you are ready to fire the piece. If any of the silver can be seen through this layer, then apply a second coat and again dry the piece thoroughly.

If you have gotten any of the paint in an unwanted area, remove it by scraping with a needle or small knife after it has dried. Return the gold powder you have scraped off to the bottle for reuse.

Drying can be done in the air, with a hair dryer, or in an oven at about 200F. Do not dry the paint too fast, however, or it may not adhere well to the silver after firing.

Now fire the specimen by inserting it into a kiln or furnace preheated to 900C (1650 F). The kiln shelf should already be in the furnace and at the firing temperature; simply lay the piece on the preheated kiln shelf. Fire the piece for 7 minutes. (Large pieces will require longer firing times.) Next, remove the piece and allow it to cool in air. If the coverage of the gold is not complete, apply more paint in the areas where the silver is showing, dry the piece, and fire it again.

Burnish the gold layer with a polished burnishing tool to a smooth, flat layer. A matte finish can then be applied with a wire brush, or a luster can be achieved by tumbling the piece with stainless steel shot in water.

Method 2 – Firing with a Torch

Requires skill in firing because it is more challenging to maintain proper temperature control. This method is not recommended unless you are already skilled in firing silver clay jewellery with a torch.

If the piece was made from a silver clay product, first fire the piece per the manufacturer's instructions. Then coat the silver piece as described in the previous section.

Next, suspend the painted piece in air from a length of heavy stainless steel wire. After the Accent Gold for Silver™ paint has thoroughly dried, heat the piece with a torch such as propane, butane, or acetylene. Allow the piece to reach a bright red colour (dim the lights in order to see and maintain this colour well), and hold this temperature for seven minutes. CAUTION: Be very careful not to melt the piece! After seven minutes allow the piece to cool, and then burnish the gold layer and apply a final finish as described in the preceding section. If the gold layer comes off the silver piece, the firing temperature was too low. Add paint to the bare regions and repeat the firing process.

Precautions:

This paint is non-toxic, non-irritating to most people, and generally safe to use. If it gets in the eyes, flush them thoroughly with water and see a doctor to ensure that the gold powder is completely removed.