

MākerCulture

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Notes on Eco Silver & Recycled Sterling Silver

At MākerCulture we provide both eco silver and recycled sterling silver jewellery. What is the difference?

While both eco silver and recycled sterling silver aim to reduce environmental impact, eco silver encompasses a wider range of sustainable practices. Recycled sterling silver specifically refers to the recycling of existing silver.

Eco silver usually contains a significant portion of recycled silver, which means it is sourced from existing products, scrap, or industrial waste. If new silver is used, it is sourced from mines that follow ethical and environmentally friendly mining practices. The manufacturing process emphasizes reducing waste, using non-toxic chemicals, and minimizing carbon footprint.

There isn't a universally accepted standard for "eco silver" but companies may seek certifications from third-party organizations, such as [Fairmined](#), that verify environmentally friendly practices.

Recycled sterling silver is an alloy which is 92.5% recycled pure silver and 7.5% other metals, usually copper, to comply with the sterling silver standard. The silver in this alloy is produced by collecting silver from various sources such as old jewellery, tableware, coins, and industrial scrap such as electronic and medical equipment. These items are then melted down and refined to remove any impurities, ensuring the recycled silver meets the same standards of purity and quality as newly processed silver.

The 7.5% of other metals added to sterling silver significantly enhances its strength and durability without compromising its beauty. Sterling silver can be polished to restore its shine, making it easy to maintain its appearance over time. Sterling silver is less likely to cause allergic reactions compared to base metal alloys that might contain nickel or lead.

