



Georgia Jewelers Association

The Official Georgia Gems Newsletter



GEORGIA GEMS | 2ND QUARTER | JUNE 2025



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Tony Cruz, President



Upcoming Events:

2025 Bill Rosenfeld Memorial Scholarship
John W. Reed Memorial Scholarship Deadline

IJO Conference
July 19-22, 2025 Indianapolis, IN

RJO
July 25-28, 2025
Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel
Schaumburg, IL

SJTA Atlanta Jewelry Show
August 23-25, 2025
Cobb Galleria
Atlanta, GA



PUBLICATION & DISTRIBUTION

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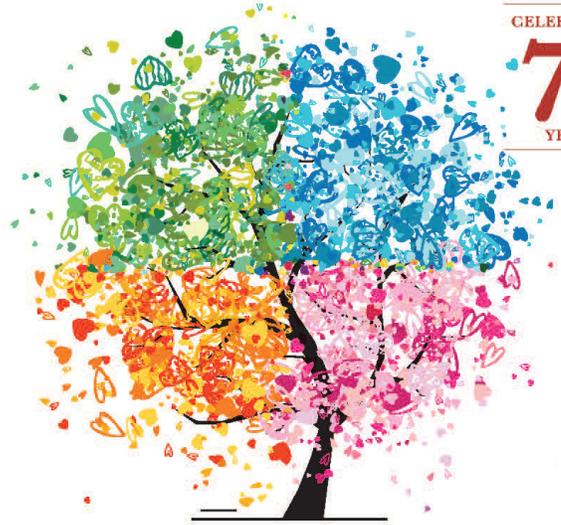
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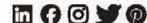
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Best Wishes

Traveling with Jewelry

by Alisa Douvry



Hitting the road (or skies!) for an exciting adventure? While you're packing the sunscreen and booking tours, don't forget about your sparkling travel companions: your fine jewelry. Our recent survey revealed that nearly all consumers still travel with their treasured pieces, highlighting the importance of keeping them safe.

Approximately 40% of the surveyed travelers insure their travel jewelry, with almost half relying on homeowners policies. Interestingly, insured travelers prioritize hotel safes and dedicated travel cases, while those without insurance keep their jewelry close by.

Younger adults are leading the trend towards specialized jewelry insurance, recognizing its advantages. If you're like most travelers, protecting your jewelry isn't top-of-mind on your travel prep to-do list. But there are some precautions to take, especially if you bring your engagement ring or other expensive pieces. Read on to learn tips on how to travel with jewelry safely.

Deciding What Jewelry to Pack

Where are you going? What will you be doing while you're there? If you're jet-setting for a laid-back beach vacation, maybe you can get away with no jewelry at all. Or just a few casual pieces for a nice dinner out. But if you're traveling for work, or a destination wedding, jewelry could be on the must-have list. If you decide you need to bring jewelry along, check for any travel advisories for your destination. If crime is of concern, consider leaving your fine jewelry behind. Safety first!

What Jewelry To Bring On Vacation?

Majority of consumers are traveling with their engagement and wedding rings

52% travel with their engagement rings

50% travel with their wedding rings

How should I store the jewelry I'm leaving behind?

Don't forget to take precautions for the expensive jewelry you don't take with you. Just because it's back home doesn't mean it's 100% safe. If you can, consider renting a safety deposit box to store your valuables while you're away.

If that's not an option, your best storage locations at home are a safe, ideally, or an inconspicuous location if you don't have a safe. Contrary to popular belief, your jewelry box is not where you should store expensive jewelry! Where do you think a thief is going to look first?

How to Pack Jewelry for Travel

When packing your jewelry for travel, you want to avoid loss, damage, and unwanted attention.

Pack Smart: Limit what you bring and consider if bringing jewelry is necessary. Be sure to take an inventory of the pieces you choose to bring for your records. Pack them securely in your carry-on bag and wear any jewelry that reasonably suits your traveling attire. For added security, avoid wearing overly flashy or expensive jewelry while traveling.

Can you bring jewelry in a carry on bag?

Absolutely. In fact, if you're not actually wearing your more expensive pieces through the airport, your carry-on is the only other way to go. In fact most travelers pack their extra pieces in their carry on, especially as value increases.

Make sure to keep the bag with your jewelry inside in your sight at all times. That includes offers of help from airport staff, cab drivers, bellhops and the like.

Never, never, never pack your fine jewelry in checked luggage. There's just way too much risk.

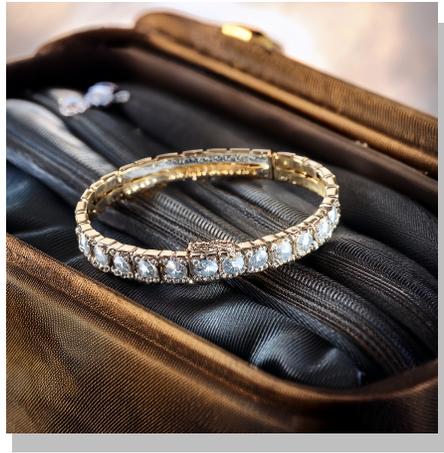
Can you wear jewelry through airport security?

There are so many things to think about while traveling - expensive, sentimental jewelry doesn't need to be one of them. For many people, the most expensive piece of jewelry you own is your engagement ring. And you probably don't take it off very often.

But should we wear it on our vacations? Depending on where you're going and what you'll be up to, the answer could very well be no.

When to Leave Bling Behind: Our survey revealed 87% of consumers travel with their engagement ring*, so it's important to know how to prevent losing it. Pro-tip: Avoid wearing your ring in or around water. Even applying suntan lotion or working up a sweat could make it easier for your ring to slide off!

Be Hotel Savvy: Our survey also found that 35% of consumers lost jewelry when traveling in the past, with the most common location being the hotel room*. Exercise caution, even when utilizing the hotel safe for valuables. Consider purchasing a supplementary lock to use on hotel safes for additional security and never leave jewelry in your room unattended.



How to Travel Safely with Expensive Jewelry

While most of the above applies to pretty much any jewelry you care about, there are extra tips to consider for traveling with expensive jewelry.

- 1. Document the jewelry you're bringing.** Make a visual inventory of the pieces you're taking with you. If you need to file a police report for any reason, this proof of ownership will be very helpful. (You should really do this anyway - it's smart to have a personal jewelry inventory.)
- 2. Alert officials, if necessary.** If your insurance company requires you to notify them of travel, make sure to do so. Also don't forget that, for international travel, you must report to Customs the transport of goods valued at \$10,000 or more.
- 3. Know when not to wear your jewelry.** While your valuables are often safest while in your sight, there are activities during which you need to take your jewelry off. Look over our full list of activities that should be off-limits to jewelry.
- 4. Store safely at your hotel.** Never leave your jewelry out in your hotel room, even inside your luggage. For any expensive jewelry you're not wearing, ask the hotel staff if they have a safe you can use, whether in your room or behind the desk.
- 5. Conceal, don't reveal.** Especially if you're in a more dangerous or unknown area, take steps to conceal any expensive jewelry from strangers. Also, don't advertise the presence of expensive jewelry by sharing to social media. There's no need to make yourself a target.
- 6. Appraise and insure.** Is your jewelry insured? Does your insurance cover worldwide travel? Or do you have travel insurance that covers jewelry? Make sure you know the limitations of your policy, and that you're covered for full value for the most common causes of loss. It's also smart to update any appraisals before you leave.

Traveling with Jewelry

by Alisa Douvry

What to Do If You Lose Your Jewelry While Traveling

All jewelry loss is devastating. Losing jewelry while traveling is extra heartbreaking since the chances of it turning up down the road are very slim.

If, despite all your precautions, your jewelry is lost or stolen on vacation, all hope is not lost.

If you suspect theft, notify security wherever it occurred - the airport, hotel/resort or cruise ship. Then, file a formal police report with local authorities.

Whether lost or stolen, this is where jewelry insurance becomes vitally important. If you take one thing away from this guide, insure your jewelry.

Insurance Essentials: Nearly half of travelers are unsure if their insurance covers them abroad. Your best bet is safeguarding your favorite pieces with specialized jewelry insurance that offers worldwide coverage while

Our comprehensive coverage protects your precious jewelry against loss, theft, damage and disappearance, even while you're abroad. Get peace of mind so you can focus on making incredible memories you'll cherish forever.

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It all happens so fast, sometimes the most prepared jewelers can fall victim to a smash-and-grab robbery.

Even with a solid overall security program, rarely is any jeweler without a point of weakness. For some, this weakness happens to be jewelry showcases — which are also the last lines of defense in the event of a smash-and-grab.

Sophisticated criminals will extensively case jewelry businesses to determine the path of least resistance for committing their crimes. They will know the layout of the building, where the most valuable merchandise is located, the exact value within each showcase, and even how much force is needed to break the showcase glass.

Or they think they do.

Some smash-and-grab attempts have been foiled because, as the robbers attempted to smash the jewelry showcases, they were stopped dead in their tracks. The glass wouldn't break as quickly as they thought and they fled before authorities arrived — with little to no merchandise.

The main reason for this strong protection is because these jewelers had both durable showcase construction and the most resilient glass installed. Having one without the other could be easily compromised by a few forceful blows of a sledgehammer.

Why is the type of glass important?

Manufacturing technologies have made some types of glass nearly impenetrable, yet basic, weaker materials still exist and are used for applications that don't demand as much security. There are three general classifications for glass used in showcases, but jewelers should only consider one for optimal security.

Annealed Glass

The most common type of glass used in general construction is annealed glass, otherwise known as plate glass. Since showcase manufacturers may work with clients that display significantly less valuable items than jewelry, this option is a widely available and cost-effective when used in a display showcase application. However, it provides virtually no security, as only a minimal amount of force is needed to break the glass into several large pieces.

Tempered Glass

Another type of material regularly used in showcases is tempered glass. It is also referred to as safety glass, because when it broken, it fractures into small, similarly sized pieces that are relatively harmless. Unfortunately, it does little to safeguard the jewelry beneath it. While tempered glass is roughly four times stronger than ordinary annealed glass, it still does not take much force to break it.





Laminated Glass

Applying the science behind tempered glass, laminated glass is designed to break into extremely small pieces that hold together when shattered. This is achieved by sandwiching an interlayer of adhesive material in between two or more layers of glass.

The glass that is used comes in different thicknesses and a variety of interlayer materials may be used. The thicker the glass and the more interlayer material that is used, the more force is needed to break it. When installed correctly, this glass will produce a characteristic “spider web” cracking pattern after a blunt force is applied.

Even if a criminal spends a considerable amount of time attacking the showcase (which in a smash-and-grab could be less than only one or two minutes) and does compromise it, there’s a good chance that only the portion of the showcase they’ve targeted will be exposed. Therefore, they may have the opportunity only to reach their arm in and escape with a handful of merchandise, rather than the whole display.

Why is showcase construction important?

Your business could use the strongest glass ever created, but installing it incorrectly could lead to failure.

The most secure showcases have glass assembled into all sides of the fixture and glazing material securing all sides with a full bed of silicone that is applied during the installation. All materials should also be UL certified.

Some displays have an “open end” design wherein the glass spans across several cases resulting in a glass-edge-to-glass-edge joint. The glass sitting atop the showcase is secured only at the back rail of the jeweler’s side of the unit and the glass in front is secured only on the bottom of the customer’s side. This “L” shaped assembly will collapse regardless of the glass’s ability to resist impact.

As you can imagine, welded glass cube showcases can also be easily compromised due to their construction. While these models have become increasingly popular with jewelers due to their aesthetics, special considerations should be considered when using them. Like other showcases, the glass should extend into the showcase fixture and it should also be bolted to the fixture.

Remember, if your business carries high-value and commonly targeted merchandise like luxury watches, you’ll be better prepared by asking “when will the crime strike?” as opposed to “will the crime ever strike?”

In the end, installing showcases properly and using quality glass could be your only hope of mitigating a potential disaster.

For more resources and services available to keep your jewelry business secure, visit JM™ Risk Services. JM Risk Services is a division of Jewelers Mutual Group dedicated to providing loss prevention education and solutions to the entire jewelry industry.



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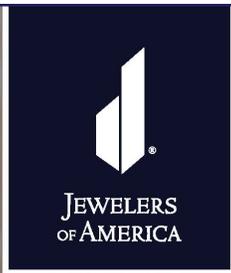
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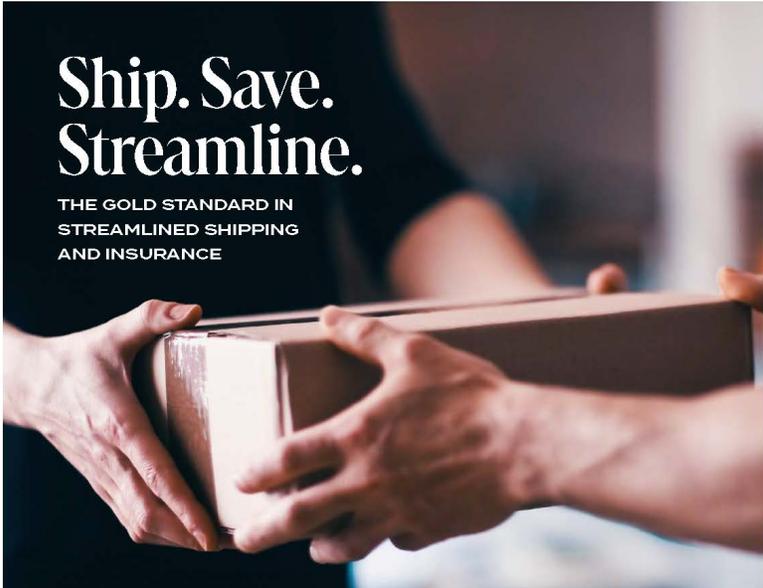
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Georgia Jewelers Association

John W. Reed Memorial Scholarship Bill Rosenfeld Memorial Scholarship Application 2025

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Store Owner _____ Store Phone _____

Personal Information

Applicant's Full Name _____ Birth date ____/____/____

Home Address:

Street _____ City _____

Zip _____ Personal Phone _____

Personal email _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

GJA Member Signature _____ Date _____

*---Please give this application & your letter to your employer for submission--- PLEASE
NOTE*****

*THIS IS THE ONLY PAGE THAT SHOULD HAVE ANY WAY TO IDENTIFY YOU, YOUR STORE OR
YOUR CITY. THE COMMITTEE WILL USE A "BLIND" PROCESS TO SELECT SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS.*

Date received by GJA office: _____	Blind Code _____
Completed Application _____	Applicant Letter _____ Employer letter _____

Mail Application to:
John W. Reed Memorial Scholarship Bill
Rosenfeld Memorial Scholarship
Attn: Janie Churchey, Executive Director
P.O. Box 5
Tucker, GA 30085

PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR STORE NAME, YOUR EMPLOYERS' NAME, YOUR CITY OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT WOULD IDENTIFY WHO YOU ARE AND WHERE YOU WORK ANY WHERE EXCEPT THE FIRST PAGE WHERE REQUESTED. APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED "BLINDLY" BY THE GJA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.

Personal Information

High School Grade Level Completed _____ College Year(s) Completed _____
Degree _____
Marital Status _____ Number of Dependents _____
Military Service _____ Years _____ Discharge _____

Are you **currently enrolled** in any GIA, AGS or other jewelry related courses at this time? _____

GIA _____ AGS _____ Other (please name) _____

What GIA, AGS or other bench jewelers accredited courses **have you completed**?

Work Experience

Length of time with current employer (GJA member store) _____

Full Time _____ Part Time _____

List your current duties and responsibilities and any experience that may be related.

Which GIA or AGS courses would you like to take with this scholarship?

Reason you are applying for this scholarship.

A letter from the applicant must accompany this application. The letter should state why you want this scholarship, what goals you have set for yourself, how you would benefit and how it would benefit the GJA member store and the industry. ***** IN THE LETTER FROM THE APPLICANT, DO NOT GIVE YOUR NAME, STORE NAME, CITY OR ANY OTHER SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT WOULD IDENTIFY YOU OR YOUR EMPLOYER.

Date Reviewed: _____ Decision: _____ Signed _____
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