

## **How to Take Care of a Wristwatch**

Congratulations! You may have just purchased your very first luxury wristwatch or you may simply be trying to learn how to protect the one you already have. Either way, you're taking a step in the right direction. Luxury watches are quite expensive in the first place and if they're not taken care of properly, you can run into some expensive issues. Hopefully our advice will offer you the opportunity to avoid these roadblocks.

### **Keep the watch running**

A running watch is a good watch. It is best to keep a watch running because it serves its function, duh! But beyond that, it is healthier for a watch to keep running. For instance, to get the best out of a mechanical movement that needs winding every day, it is best to wind the watch at the same time on a daily basis. Our advice is to wind it when you wake up in the morning before putting it on your wrist. A mechanical movement runs on potential energy that converts to kinetic energy to make the watch run. As the day progresses, that potential energy decreases until it eventually depletes. So, if you wind your watch at the same time every day, it should keep your watch running smoothly for a long time. When you wind your watch, be sure to turn the crown slowly. Quick or forceful movements can exert unnecessary pressure on the inside and cause the watch to break.

Quartz movement watches run on batteries. You don't have to do much to keep a quartz watch moving because the electrical energy from the battery keeps it running. However, if the battery dies, don't just leave your watch at your nightstand and say "I'll get to it later." If you leave the battery inside for too long because you've decided to stop wearing your watch altogether, it is possible for the battery to leak. A leaky battery inside a watch case is a disaster because it can completely break the watch. So what was originally a \$35 [battery replacement](#) has now turned into a \$600 job to repair your watch. Don't let this happen.

Once you set an automatic watch, you can keep it running by simply wearing it. The movement of your wrist will keep it running. If an automatic watch sits around for too long, it will stop running. Some automatic watches have longer power reserves, meaning that they continue running for a longer period of time once they are set down. Some people even buy watch winders that keep the watch moving when it's not being worn. These extra accessories or complications keep the watch running, which is the best thing you can do for an automatic watch. The watch parts inside a case are very sensitive. They are lubricated and interact in a complex manner with other minute parts that beg appreciation of their intricacy. When a watch stops running, it is possible for dirt or dust to collect and hinder this movement. Eventually, the watch will have to be repaired at a high cost. You can prevent this by simply wearing the watch that you purchased to wear in the first place!

## **Water resistance, magnets, sunlight, and more**

Most watches are water resistant up to a certain depth. This is a good feature to have when we are constantly exposed to the elements of the Earth. For the most part, it is completely safe to expose your watch to water (given that it is water resistant) but we would recommend avoiding it. You should be fine when you are washing your hands under a sink or running away from a rainy shower. However, most water damage that occurs to watches isn't because the water resistance ceased to exist, but because the crown was slightly open, which allowed water to leak inside the case. If you forgot to twist the crown all the way and you jump into a pool with your [Rolex watch](#), you're in for an expensive repair process.

What about magnets? Most watches have natural anti-magnetic properties, but not to a high degree. We advise you to stay away from magnets when wearing your watch as it can interfere with its timekeeping function. There are special watches that are produced with additional anti-magnetic features like the [Rolex Milgauss](#). This watch is especially useful for people who work in a healthcare facility or laboratory in which they are exposed to magnets on a regular basis.

Should I be avoiding sunlight? Not necessarily, we don't expect you to purchase an expensive watch and hide in your home like a troll. It is acceptable to wear your watch out, just don't leave it in direct sunlight when you're not wearing it. Enough direct exposure to the harmful UV rays of the sun can fade the color of your dial, watch hands, or other parts of the watch. It's okay to wear it to brunch but don't let your watch sit outside by the pool for hours on end!

## **Maintenance and [watch service](#)**

Before we go into servicing your watch, let's talk about simple steps you could take to clean your watch and make it look like new. Every once in a while, dirt and debris can get stuck between the links of your watch or in other hard to reach parts. The best step you can take to clean your watch is to use a lukewarm soapy solution with a soft-bristled brush to GENTLY scrub away the dirt. Make sure your wristwatch is water resistant before you clean it through this manner.

Okay, now onto watch servicing...

There is no consensus about how often a watch should be serviced. Some people say every 5 years, others say every 2 years. We'll offer you our input and let you decide. If, for example, you have a diving watch and often wear it on your diving expeditions, then we would suggest that you service your watch every 2 years. If you wear your watch to the office and generally take good care of it, then maybe you should service your watch every 5 years. Now, it's completely possible that your watch will work perfectly and may not break after those 2 or 5 years, but the truth is, it's completely unpredictable when a watch will stop running. Like a car, it is best to maintain it so as not to run into any trouble. A watch repair is must more costly than a watch service. We've had instances of people who had hadn't serviced their watch for over 10 years

and once it stopped running, they were shocked to hear how expensive their watch repair would be.

### **What happens during a watch service?**

Keep in mind that watchmakers have a different process for performing a watch service, but we employ the highest standards at Raymond Lee Jewelers. During a watch service, the watch movement is disassembled and all the parts are removed. Every part is cleaned via the ultrasonic to remove the old lubricant. Every single part is then examined to make sure it is not worn out or damaged. As the movement is being rebuilt, every part is re-lubricated with new oils so that it runs like it's completely new. Gaskets are replaced with new ones, as are any pins. The watch is polished and tested for water resistance before being returned to the customer. We use the newest technologies to ensure that your watch is properly tested and runs like new before being returned to you.

We hope that this simple guide has been helpful to you in explaining how to maintain an expensive wristwatch. We service watches from almost all brands. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us via telephone at 561-750-7808 or by email at [info@raymondleejewelers.net](mailto:info@raymondleejewelers.net)