

Cleaning Silver Coins

Materials Needed:

Baking Soda
Scissors
Aluminum Foil (regular – not coated)
Big pot (2 gal)
Stove

Directions:

Boil 1 gallon water in a large pot.

Take aluminum foil three times the width of the pot and wrinkle it up small enough to fit inside.

Take a 1 foot piece of aluminum foil and roll it up as big around as a pencil.

Cut the rolled up foil into confetti.

Place the large piece of foil into the pot and push to the bottom with a wooden spoon.

Turn the heat down on the pot until the bubbles almost stop.

Carefully pour 1/2 cup of baking soda into the pot and stir.
(Be careful putting ANY powder into boiling water...the particles make an easy site for boiling to occur and you will see energetic, if not explosive bubbles coming out of the pot. This is why you just don't dump it into the boiling water.)

The confetti goes into the mix next and now you should have a rolling boil of baking soda, aluminum confetti, water, and the large piece of foil.

Take whatever silver pieces you have and one at a time test a small part of it by dipping a corner or edge into the water.

If you find it works, your nose will be greeted with a nice stinky rotten egg scent...that is the sulfur escaping the solution in steam. Take the dipped silver out of the solution and rinse it before it dries. The baking soda will crust onto the hot silver, so dunk, rinse, dunk, rinse, etc.

How it works:

Since the method does not remove silver, you may use it repeatedly. Tarnish is a sulfur compound sticking to the silver. It looks dark brown or black. The sulfur compound on the silver is more attracted to the baking soda solution. The sulfur that is bonding with the baking soda in turn becomes even more attracted to the aluminum foil. So, basically the dark stuff jumps off of the silver and onto the aluminum. The hot water just speeds up the process by adding energy and easy movement from host to host.

Do not try the recipe with other precious metals...you may find that the tarnish prefers brass or gold instead of aluminum foil. Remember, dunk, rinse, and repeat.

Remember, there are two rules to cleaning coins:

1. Never clean your coins.
2. Refer back to rule 1.

**Have Detector Will Travel assumes no responsibility for your actions.
Use the above method at your own risk.**