

Jewelry may seem like a minor detail, but it can have significant consequences on the accuracy, reliability, and quality of thermal imaging.

### **Why jewelry during a thermography scan is problematic**

1. **Obstruction of Views:** Jewelry, particularly necklaces, bracelets, and large earrings, can block key areas, preventing a clear view of the areas of interest, leading to incomplete or inaccurate assessments.
2. **Reflection:** Metals and some gemstones have high reflectivity, which means they can reflect thermal radiation from the surroundings. This can create false hotspots, where the reflected heat appears as an area of higher temperature than it actually is.
3. **Refraction:** Some gemstones can refract thermal radiation, bending the heat waves and causing distorted thermal images. This can create false patterns of temperature distribution.
4. **Thermal Conductivity:** Jewelry, especially metal pieces, has different thermal conductivity compared to skin or other materials. Metals heat up and cool down at different rates, which can distort the thermal image. This distortion can mask underlying issues or create artifacts that are not present.
5. **Skin Contact Variability:** Jewelry can create variable thermal readings due to inconsistent skin contact. Areas under or around the jewelry might show different temperatures due to air gaps or inconsistent contact, further complicating the analysis.

### **Before your thermography scan, please...**

1. Remove all jewelry and leave it at home. This includes necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings, and any other accessories that might interfere with the imaging process.
2. Identify permanent jewelry: In cases where jewelry cannot be removed (e.g., permanent or medically necessary items), be sure to tell your technician.

By understanding the issues jewelry can cause and adhering to BTI's protocols and best practices, we can ensure that the images captured are clear, accurate, and useful. Removing jewelry is a simple yet essential step in maintaining the integrity of thermal imaging results, ultimately leading to more accurate report of findings.