Cleaning 99% silver foil (fine silver) requires a gentle approach, as it is soft and can be easily damaged. The most effective, non-abrasive method is the **aluminum foil and baking soda electrolytic process**, which removes tarnish (silver sulfide) by transferring it to the aluminum, rather than scrubbing it off.

The Best Method: Electrolytic Cleaning

This method is ideal because it does not remove any of the underlying metal, which is important for thin silver foil.

What You Need:

- A container (glass or metal)

- Aluminum foil

- Baking soda

- Boiling water

- Tongs (optional)

Steps:

1. **Line the Container:** Line the container with aluminum foil, shiny side up.

2. **Place Silver:** Place the tarnished silver foil on top of the foil, ensuring it makes direct contact.

3. **Add Baking Soda:** Sprinkle a generous amount of baking soda over the silver (roughly 1–2 tablespoons per cup of water).

4. **Add Hot Water:** Pour boiling water into the container until the silver is completely submerged. A fizzing reaction will occur.

5. **Soak:** Allow the silver to soak for several minutes (1–10 minutes depending on the level of tarnish).

6. **Remove and Dry:** Remove the silver using tongs, rinse it thoroughly with clean water, and dry it with a soft cloth.

Alternative Methods

- **Baking Soda Paste:** For small, stubborn spots, make a paste of baking soda and water. Apply it gently with a soft cloth or sponge, then rinse and dry thoroughly.

- **Hand Sanitizer:** A few drops on a soft cloth can remove light tarnish.

Important Tips for 99% Silver Foil

- **Avoid Abrasives:** Do not use toothpaste, harsh scrubs, or steel wool, as these will scratch or tear the thin silver foil.

- **Avoid Rubber Gloves:** Do not wear rubber gloves when cleaning, as rubber is corrosive to silver.

- **Post-Cleaning Protection:** To prevent the silver from re-tarnishing quickly, consider applying a protective coating like ProtectaClear.

- **Storage:** Store clean silver in a dry area, preferably wrapped in anti-tarnish paper or bags.