

Need another word that means the same as “tarnish”? Find 58 synonyms and 30 related words for “tarnish” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Tarnish” are: defile, maculate, stain, sully, become discoloured, discolour, rust, oxidize, corrode, deteriorate, dull, make dull, dim, blacken, make black, besmirch, smirch, blemish, blot, taint, soil, befoul, spoil, ruin, dirty, disgrace, mar, damage, defame, calumniate, injure, harm, hurt, undermine, debase, degrade, denigrate, dishonour, stigmatize, vitiate, drag through the mud, discoloration, oxidation, tarnishing, blackening, film, patina, smear, black mark, slur, stigma, flaw**

## Tarnish as a Noun

### Definitions of "Tarnish" as a noun

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), “tarnish” as a noun can have the following definitions:

- *A film or stain formed on an exposed surface of a mineral or metal.*
- *Damage or harm done to something.*
- *Dullness of colour; loss of brightness.*
- *Discoloration of metal surface caused by oxidation.*



## Synonyms of "Tarnish" as a noun (17 Words)

**black mark** Black clothing (worn as a sign of mourning).

**blackening** Changing to a darker color.

**blemish** A moral defect or fault.  
*The girl's hands were without a **blemish**.*

**blot** A shameful act or quality that damages an otherwise good character or reputation.

*He made a huge **blot** on his copybook.*

**discoloration** The act of changing the natural color of something by making it duller or dingier or unnatural or faded.

*Teeth with amalgam fillings may run the risk of **discoloration**.*

<b>film</b>	A story or event recorded by a camera as a set of moving images and shown in a cinema or on television. <i>A new range of <b>films</b> and cameras.</i>
<b>flaw</b>	Defect or weakness in a person's character. <i>He had his <b>flaws</b> but he was great nonetheless.</i>
<b>oxidation</b>	The process of oxidizing; the addition of oxygen to a compound with a loss of electrons; always occurs accompanied by reduction.
<b>patina</b>	The impression or appearance of something. <i>A <b>patina</b> of good breeding.</i>
<b>rust</b>	A plant disease that produces a reddish brown discoloration of leaves and stems caused by various rust fungi. <i>The MPs are here to scrape the <b>rust</b> off the derelict machinery of government.</i>
<b>slur</b>	An act of speaking indistinctly so that sounds or words run into one another or a tendency to speak in such a way. <i>The comments were a <b>slur</b> on staff at the hospital.</i>
<b>smear</b>	A false accusation intended to damage someone's reputation. <i>Soon you re eyeballing the top just one <b>smear</b> away.</i>
<b>smirch</b>	An act that brings discredit to the person who does it.
<b>stain</b>	The state of being covered with unclean things. <i>There were mud <b>stains</b> on my shoes.</i>
<b>stigma</b>	The apical end of the style where deposited pollen enters the pistil. <i>The <b>stigma</b> of having gone to prison will always be with me.</i>
<b>taint</b>	Something with a contaminating influence or effect. <i>The <b>taint</b> of corruption which adhered to the government.</i>
<b>tarnishing</b>	Discoloration of metal surface caused by oxidation.



### Usage Examples of "Tarnish" as a noun

- *The tarnish on Alan's personal reputation.*
- *He was removing tarnish from the candlesticks.*



## **Tarnish as a Verb**

## Definitions of "Tarnish" as a verb

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), "tarnish" as a verb can have the following definitions:

- *Make or become less valuable or respected.*
- *Make dirty or spotty, as by exposure to air; also used metaphorically.*
- *Lose or cause to lose lustre, especially as a result of exposure to air or moisture.*



## Synonyms of "Tarnish" as a verb (41 Words)

**become discoloured** Enter or assume a certain state or condition.

**befoul** Make dirty; pollute.  
*The dangers of letting industry **befoul** the environment.*

**besmirch** Damage (someone's reputation).  
*The ground was **besmirched** with blood.*

<b>blacken</b>	Make or become black. <i>Paras in full combat gear with <b>blackened</b> faces.</i>
<b><u>blemish</u></b>	Add a flaw or blemish to make imperfect or defective. <i>His reign as world champion has been <b>blemished</b> by controversy.</i>
<b>blot</b>	Transfer by means of a blot. <i>A dust shield <b>blotting</b> out the sun.</i>
<b>calumniate</b>	Charge falsely or with malicious intent; attack the good name and reputation of someone. <i>He has been calumniating the Crown and all the conservative decencies.</i>
<b>corrode</b>	Cause to deteriorate due to the action of water, air, or an acid. <i>The acid <b>corroded</b> the metal.</i>
<b>damage</b>	Inflict damage upon. <i>The car was badly <b>damaged</b> in the accident.</i>
<b>debase</b>	Corrupt debase or make impure by adding a foreign or inferior substance often by replacing valuable ingredients with inferior ones. <i>War <b>debases</b> people.</i>
<b><u>defame</u></b>	Charge falsely or with malicious intent; attack the good name and reputation of someone. <i>He claimed that the article <b>defamed</b> his family.</i>
<b><u>defile</u></b>	Rape or sexually assault (a woman). <i>The tomb had been <b>defiled</b> and looted.</i>
<b>degrade</b>	Lower the quality of; cause to deteriorate. <i>He was <b>degraded</b> from his high estate.</i>
<b>denigrate</b>	Criticize unfairly; disparage. <i>Doom and gloom merchants who <b>denigrate</b> their own country.</i>
<b>deteriorate</b>	Grow worse. <i>If the situation continues to <b>deteriorate</b> the consequences could be severe.</i>
<b><u>dim</u></b>	Make dim by comparison or conceal. <i>A smoky inferno that <b>dimmed</b> the sun.</i>
<b>discolour</b>	Change or cause to change to a different, less attractive colour. <i>Too much aluminium can <b>discolour</b> water.</i>
<b>disgrace</b>	Bring shame or discredit on. <i>He has been publicly <b>disgraced</b> for offences for which he was not guilty.</i>

<b>dishonour</b>	Refuse to accept or pay (a cheque or a bill of exchange). <i>She was now unworthy of his notice having been <b>dishonoured</b> by Casim.</i>
<b>drag through the mud</b>	Draw slowly or heavily.
<b>dull</b>	Become dull or lusterless in appearance lose shine or brightness. <i>Too much cutting <b>dulls</b> the knife s edge.</i>
<b><u>harm</u></b>	Cause or do harm to. <i>These pills won t <b>harm</b> your system.</i>
<b>hurt</b>	Hurt the feelings of. <i>Our business was <b>hurt</b> by the new competition.</i>
<b>injure</b>	Cause damage or affect negatively. <i>He <b>injured</b> his back helping the girl.</i>
<b>maculate</b>	Spot, stain, or pollute. <i>A dirty white T shirt <b>maculated</b> with barbecue sauce.</i>
<b>make black</b>	Achieve a point or goal.
<b>make dull</b>	Favor the development of.
<b>mar</b>	Destroy or injure severely. <i>Nothing <b>marred</b> her beauty.</i>
<b>oxidize</b>	Combine chemically with oxygen. <i>This metal <b>oxidizes</b> easily.</i>
<b>ruin</b>	Fall into ruin. <i>You have <b>ruined</b> my car by pouring sugar in the tank.</i>
<b><u>rust</u></b>	Be affected with rust. <i>The pipes <b>rusted</b>.</i>
<b>smirch</b>	Make (something) dirty; soil. <i>I am not accustomed to having my honour <b>smirched</b>.</i>
<b><u>soil</u></b>	Make soiled filthy or dirty. <i>Don t <b>soil</b> your clothes when you play outside.</i>
<b>spoil</b>	Be extremely or aggressively eager for. <i>The enemy entered into Hereford <b>spoiled</b> and fired the city and razed the walls to the ground.</i>
<b>stain</b>	Produce or leave stains. <i>Wood can always be <b>stained</b> to a darker shade.</i>
<b>stigmatize</b>	Mark with stigmata. <i>The institution was <b>stigmatized</b> as a last resort for the destitute.</i>



<b>sully</b>	Place under suspicion or cast doubt upon. <i>She wondered if she dared <b>sully</b> the gleaming sink.</i>
<b>taint</b>	Affect with a bad or undesirable quality. <i>The air was <b>tainted</b> by fumes from the cars.</i>
<b>undermine</b>	Erode the base or foundation of (a rock formation). <i>This could <b>undermine</b> years of hard work.</i>
<b>vitiate</b>	Take away the legal force of or render ineffective. <i>Development programmes have been <b>vitiated</b> by the rise in population.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Tarnish" as a verb

- *His regime had not been tarnished by human rights abuses.*
- *The silver was tarnished by the long exposure to the air.*
- *Lemon juice would tarnish the gilded metal.*
- *Silver tarnishes too easily.*



## Associations of "Tarnish" (30 Words)

- adulteration** The act of adulterating (especially the illicit substitution of one substance for another).  
*The **adulteration** of culture.*
- besmirch** Damage (someone's reputation).  
*The ground was **besmirched** with blood.*
- blot** Transfer by means of a blot.  
*Mary dug her brush into black paint and **blotted** out her picture.*
- committed** Pledged or bound to a certain course or policy; dedicated.  
*Esther has a **committed** boyfriend.*

<b>contaminate</b>	Make (something) impure by exposure to or addition of a poisonous or polluting substance. <i>Don't drink the water it's <b>contaminated</b>.</i>
<b>contaminated</b>	Having been made impure by exposure to or addition of a poisonous or polluting substance. <i>Had to boil the <b>contaminated</b> water.</i>
<b><u>contamination</u></b>	The act of contaminating or polluting; including (either intentionally or accidentally) unwanted substances or factors. <i>The <b>contamination</b> of his morals.</i>
<b>corrupt</b>	Corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality. <i>Socrates was accused of <b>corrupting</b> young men.</i>
<b>daub</b>	Material used to daub walls. <i><b>Daub</b> the ceiling with plaster.</i>
<b>debasement</b>	Being mixed with extraneous material; the product of adulterating. <i>The outcome is rot and <b>debasement</b> of the system.</i>
<b><u>defamation</u></b>	A false accusation of an offense or a malicious misrepresentation of someone's words or actions. <i>She sued him for <b>defamation</b>.</i>
<b><u>defame</u></b>	Charge falsely or with malicious intent. <i>The journalists have <b>defamed</b> me.</i>
<b><u>defile</u></b>	Desecrate or profane (something sacred). <i>The townspeople <b>defiled</b> the river by emptying raw sewage into it.</i>
<b>defiled</b>	Morally blemished; stained or impure.
<b>denigrate</b>	Charge falsely or with malicious intent. <i>Doom and gloom merchants who <b>denigrate</b> their own country.</i>
<b>environmental</b>	Concerned with the ecological effects of altering the environment. <i>Acid rain may have caused major <b>environmental</b> damage.</i>
<b><u>infect</u></b>	Contaminate with a disease or microorganism. <i>Viruses have <b>infected</b> computer networks.</i>
<b>maculate</b>	Spotted or stained. <i>A dirty white T shirt <b>maculated</b> with barbecue sauce.</i>
<b>maliciously</b>	With malice; in a malicious manner. <i>Proof that the defendant acted <b>maliciously</b>.</i>
<b>pollute</b>	Defile or corrupt. <i>A society <b>polluted</b> by greed.</i>

<b>pollution</b>	The presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance which has harmful or poisonous effects. <i>The level of <b>pollution</b> in the air is rising.</i>
<b>sicken</b>	Get sick. <i>This kind of food <b>sickens</b> me.</i>
<b>slur</b>	Of words or speech be slurred. <i>He was <b>slurring</b> his words like a drunk.</i>
<b>smirch</b>	A blemish made by dirt. <i>The window was <b>smirched</b> by heat and smoke.</i>
<b>smudge</b>	Make a smudge on soil by smudging. <i>She dabbed her eyes careful not to <b>smudge</b> her make up.</i>
<b>spot</b>	Mark with a spot or spots so as to allow easy recognition. <i>His bald <b>spot</b>.</i>
<b>stain</b>	Be marked or be liable to be marked with a stain. <i>He regarded his time in gaol as a <b>stain</b> on his character.</i>
<b>sully</b>	Make dirty or spotty, as by exposure to air; also used metaphorically. <i><b>Sully</b> someone's reputation.</i>
<b>taint</b>	(of food or water) become contaminated or polluted. <i>The rennet should be soaked in water containing sufficient salt to keep it from <b>tainting</b>.</i>