

What determines the value of a Diamond Jewelry?

There are four main factors that determine the value of a diamond. They are referred to as the Four C's:

- Carat Weight (size)
- Cut
- Colour
- Clarity

Carat Weight- Diamond Jewelries

A diamond's weight is expressed in carats. Carat weight is the easiest of the Four C's to determine. To get the exact weight however, the diamond must be loose. One carat is divided into 100 'points' so that a diamond of 50 points is described as a half carat in size, or 0.50 carat. Within common weight ranges, there is little or no variation in per-carat price.

Cut- Diamond Jewelries

The cut of a diamond is also referred to as its 'facets' and relates to its proportion. Many cutters choose to sacrifice some of the diamond's beauty to produce a stone that is a larger carat weight.

Cut, more than any other quality aspect, gives the diamond its sparkle. A diamond gets its brilliance and scintillation by the cutting and polishing of its facets, allowing the maximum amount of light that enters through its top to be reflected and dispersed back through the top.

With proper cutting the light passes through the top, bounces off the sides, and then travels back out the top, giving the diamond optimum brilliance. If the diamond is cut too deep, light passes through the side of the diamond. If the diamond is cut too shallow, light passes through the bottom of the diamond, also inhibiting maximum brilliance.

Two popular overall proportion indicators are Total Depth Percentage (D%) and Table Percentage (T%). D% is the diamond's depth expressed as a percentage of its width (average diameter for rounds). T% is the diamond's 'table' width expressed as a percentage of its overall width (diameters for rounds).

Round diamonds with cutting proportions within the range generally considered attractive, have depths from 55 to 63 percent; the table size of most round diamonds lies between 56 and 64 percent. With non-round shapes ('fancy' shapes), much greater proportion variations are encountered. In most fancy shapes, higher D% and T% are more common and are dependent on width to length ratios. See Round Facet Diagram below.

Clarity- Diamond Jewelry

Clarity describes the clearness or purity of a diamond, and is determined by the number, size, nature, and location of the internal (inclusions) and external (blemishes) imperfections.

Diamond Enhancements- Diamond Jewellries

Are specific treatments, performed on natural diamonds (usually those already cut and polished into gems), which are designed to improve their visual gemological characteristics, and therefore the value, of the diamond in one or more ways. These include clarity treatments such as laser drilling to remove black carbon inclusions, fracture filling to make small internal cracks less visible, color irradiation and annealing treatments to make yellow and brown diamonds a vibrant fancy color such as vivid yellow, blue, or pink.

Clarity and color enhanced diamonds sell at lower price points when compared to similar, untreated diamonds. This is due to the fact that enhanced diamonds are originally lower quality before the enhancement is performed, and therefore are priced at a substandard level. After enhancement, the diamonds may visually appear as good as their non-enhanced counterparts.

Fluorescence- Diamond Jewellries

Fluorescence is not formally a colour grading term. Many diamonds glow when exposed to light that contains relatively high amounts of ultraviolet. This is due to a natural interaction between the light's energy and the atoms in the diamond.

Some diamonds (about 10%) fluoresce strongly enough so as to be somewhat noticeable in regular (incandescent) light. Strong fluorescence in colourless to very near colourless grades (D through G) can sometimes give the diamond a hazy appearance. Generally, for very light yellow colour diamonds, fluorescence is considered to be beneficial since it makes the diamond appear whiter. The beauty of any diamond that exhibits 'faint' fluorescence is not adversely affected in any way.