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WeddingPath fact sheets: rings and jewellery



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starting out

### You're engaged!

He's popped the question, so now's the time to think about the ring. Whether you are choosing it together or the groom is making the decision solo, you'll find our fact sheet comes in handy. We cover all you need to know about buying diamonds with a run down on the 4 Cs and a quick round up of birthstones, popular for engagement rings. We also take you step by step through other jewellery choices for your big day, from tiaras to toe rings with pros and cons on platinum v. gold. Print out our **useful checklist** for your wedding planning file and click on the links to find other **articles** on wedding jewellery on WeddingPath. You'll also be able to chat to other brides by clicking on related **forum posts** at [WeddingTalk](#).

GOT A QUESTION?



Visit the WP Forums

### Something old, something new or something bespoke?

Where are you going to buy your ring? You'll need to decide whether you want a second-hand/antique style or something new from a jewellers. Or perhaps you are planning on having a ring made. If you are lucky enough to have been handed down an engagement ring, you might want to think about having the stones in a different setting. Choosing an 'already-worn' ring, you might also need to get the ring re-sized - bear in mind that it is much easier to get a ring made smaller than bigger.

made from...

### Gold or platinum?

When you are choosing jewellery for your wedding day, you'll want to decide right at the beginning whether you prefer gold, white gold or platinum. Gold is mixed with other metals to make jewellery. The carat is the number of parts of gold per thousand. Generally, you'll find 14-carat, 18-carat or 24-carat as the most common types of gold. The higher the carat the more expensive the ring. Gold also comes in different colours. White gold is made by adding silver or palladium while rose gold is made by adding copper. Platinum is a popular choice for wedding jewellery as it is harder wearing than gold. It's also more expensive - partly because it is harder for the jeweller to work with. Platinum or gold also take on a different appearance according to the way they are polished whether it is with a high shine or a more contemporary matt finish. For an ultra-contemporary look, choose titanium - it is a striking grey and extremely durable metal.

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### Perfect match

When choosing your wedding rings, you need to find a style that suits your engagement ring. If you have a 'shaped' engagement ring, you'll need a similar design wedding band so that they both fit comfortably on your finger. As well as sitting together nicely, you should choose rings that are made of a similar metal so that one doesn't get more rubbed and worn than the other. A platinum engagement ring is not a good combination with a gold wedding band, especially a soft gold, as it will rub against the band and gradually wear it out.

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what you get

### The Four Cs

If you are buying a diamond engagement ring, the price will take into account the quality of the diamond which is graded according to the 4 Cs.

- CARAT is the weight of a diamond with one carat being equivalent to 0.2 grams.

- COLOUR varies hugely from pink, green, blue and yellow to most valued white or colourless.

- CLARITY refers to the level of natural flaws in the stone which appear as spots, flecks or cracks. The lowest grade has visible flaws.

- CUT is the way the stone is shaped and faceted to glint and reflect light.

did you know?

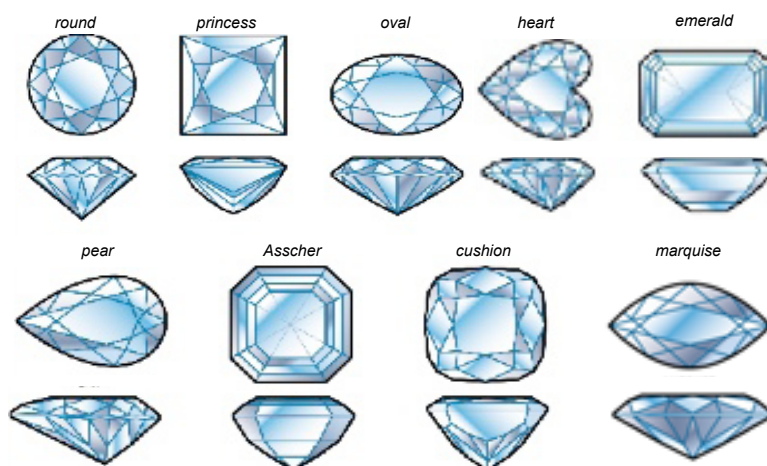
Conflict diamonds are illegally traded to fund conflict. Buy from a reputable dealer or check the certification on the guarantee.

To find out more go to [diamondfacts.org](http://diamondfacts.org).



Photo © Anna Rosell

### Diamond Cuts



Princess, round, marquise, pear, oval and emerald cuts are the most popular for engagement rings.

let us help

### Forum posts

[Join the chat on WeddingTalk about jewellery.](#)

[Need views...](#)

[Jewellery](#)

[What prezzie...](#)

[Fab wedding rings](#)

### Start searching

Our [vendor directory](#) is the perfect place to start shopping for your wedding jewellery. You'll find local jewellers with a direct link to their website so that you can check out the style and selection.

### Read more...

[Buying an engagement ring](#)

[Choosing a wedding ring](#)

[What a gem](#)

[Play it by ear](#)

[Finishing touch](#)

[Pearly Queen](#)

size matters

- Rings are measured by letters, starting with A (37.5mm) and going up to Z (88.75mm).

- You can make your own ring sizer by clicking on the [download link](#) at Goldsmiths.

- Remember that your fingers swell in warm weather so opt for a larger size if in doubt.

- You'll also need a larger size if you are choosing a design with a wide band.

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## jewellery checklist

- bride's jewellery**
- Choose a wedding band that complements your engagement ring.
  - Have your wedding band engraved with initials or message inside.
  - Choose a necklace to suit the neckline of your dress.
  - If you are wearing your hair up, look at co-ordinating earrings.
  - Decide between a tiara or hair accessories, such as sparkly comb or grips.
  - Choose a piece of jewellery to wear as 'something old/blue/borrowed'.
  - Crystals or jewels are great for your bouquet and/or to decorate the cake.
- groom**
- Send your groom a watch and a 'get me to the church on time' note.
  - Choose cufflinks to complement the groom's outfit.
  - Get a groom's engagement ring to go with his wedding band.
  - Thank the best man with cufflinks or a traditional hip flask.
- mums & maids**
- Give bridesmaids a matching bracelet or necklace to wear on the day.
  - Choose bejewelled hair accessories to complement the bridesmaids' dresses.
  - Give a necklace or charm bracelet as a traditional bridesmaid's gift from the groom.
  - Treat your Mum to a piece of jewellery as a thank you and keepsake.
  - Buy a piece of costume jewellery to accessorise your Mum's outfit.
- need to know**
- Decide on the budget for your rings and stick to it.
  - Ask your jeweller for a valuation certificate for your ring.
  - Make a photocopy/photograph of your ring and jewellery.
  - Get your wedding jewellery added to your household insurance.
  - Care for your ring and jewellery - ask your jeweller about cleaning it.
  - Make sure your best man has the rings somewhere safe!

Look to the zodiac and choose an engagement ring set with your birthstone.

**JANUARY: Garnet**

Appearance: Dark red stone.

Symbol: safeguard against illness, fidelity, constancy.

**FEBRUARY: Amethyst**

Appearance: Clear stone from pale to dark purple.

Symbol: Virtue, sobriety and sincerity.

**MARCH: Aquamarine**

Appearance: pale watery blue to clear blue-green.

Symbol: Youth, courage and happiness.

**APRIL: Diamond**

Appearance: the most precious gemstone.

Symbol: Purity and innocence.

**MAY: Emerald**

Appearance: Bright to middle green stone.

Symbol: Fidelity and harmony.

**JUNE: Pearl**

Appearance: varied shape from white to black colour. Symbol: Purity and wisdom.

**JULY: Ruby**

Appearance: Rich red stone.

Symbol: Wealth and desire.

**AUGUST: Peridot**

Appearance: yellow green or pale pink stone.

Symbol: Contentment and fidelity.

**SEPTEMBER: Sapphire**

Appearance: pale to inky blue or yellow.

Symbol: Peace, wisdom and virtue.

**OCTOBER: Opal**

Appearance: milky white stone with flecks.

Symbol: Faith, good fortune, everlasting love.

**NOVEMBER Topaz**

Appearance: yellow, luminous stone.

Symbol: Beauty, intelligence and longevity.

**DECEMBER: Turquoise**

Appearance: Pale green-blue opaque stone.

Symbol: harmony, success and happiness.

Choose a setting to suit the stone and style of your ring.

**CLAW SETTING**

Most commonly used for engagement rings. The stone is held in place with prongs.

**CHANNEL SETTING**

Often used for eternity rings with a row of stones set between two bands of metal.

**BEZEL SETTING**

The stone is held in place with a band of metal instead of prongs.

[WeddingTalk](#) forums are a great source of advice and support - WeddingPathers are fantastic at helping each other! And the WeddingPath team is here to help you too. If you have any feedback on this fact sheet or would like to make a suggestion, please send us an [e-mail](#) - we'd love to hear from you.