

Diamond Centre Wales

Merchants, Dealers & Manufacturers

The

Diamond

Guide

Understanding Diamonds

Diamond Clarity

What is Diamond Clarity?

Almost all diamonds that are mined from the Earth contain flaws. Diamonds are formed under extreme heat and pressure within the earth. As the diamond forms, each one will have different characteristics that may include internal flaws called inclusions and external marks called blemishes.

The number, size and positioning of these flaws and blemishes affect the value of the diamond. Clarity is graded on a scale starting at **FL (Flawless)** down to **I3 (Included)**.

A flawless diamond has the highest grade, and has no internal or external inclusions. These are extremely rare, and are high in value.

A diamond with an 'Included' grading will have inclusions that are detectable to the naked eye and may even affect brilliance. Therefore, these stones tend to be more commercially priced.

In some cases, certain types of imperfections can impact the sparkle of a diamond but overall if they are well sourced, they will not affect the sparkle and life of the diamond.

Please see our '**Clarity Scale**' below which explains each grade in more detail.

The Clarity Scale

					
					
FL flawless	IF internally flawless	VVS very very slightly included VVS 1 & VVS 2	VS very slightly included VS 1 & VS 2	SI slightly included SI 1 & SI 2	I included I 1, I 2 & I 3

There are no inclusions or blemishes of any sort visible to a skilled diamond grader using 10x magnification.

There are no inclusions, only insignificant blemishes visible to a skilled diamond grader using 10x magnification.

There are some minute inclusions that are difficult for a skilled diamond grader to see using 10x magnification.

The inclusions are minor to a skilled grader using 10x magnification.

The slight inclusions are noticeable to a skilled grader using 10x magnification.

These Inclusions are easily detectable with the loupe and in some cases can be seen without to a skilled grader using 10x magnification



Understanding Diamonds

Diamond Colour

Diamond Colour

Colour is usually one of the four C's that diamond shoppers wish to prioritise. However, when it comes to sparkle, colour doesn't impact it that significantly.

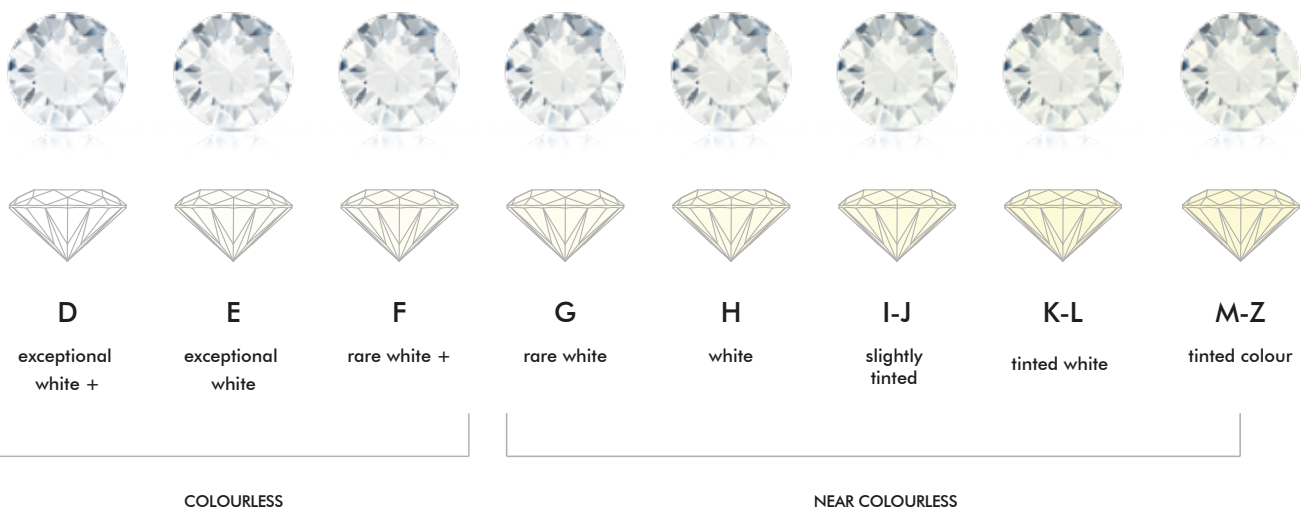
The whiter the diamond, the higher the grade and price. The GIA Colour Grading Scale is the most universally used, and grades colour from the top grade of **'D' (Colourless)** right down to **'Z' (Tinted Light Yellow)**.

When choosing your diamond, you want to be happy with the colour as your eye will be drawn to this when you look at the stone. Ideally, starting from a H upwards in colour will allow you to have a stone which should be visibly white to the naked eye. In some cases, stones with a grade of 'I-J' can also have a relatively white look from the top.

When it comes to Fancy Coloured Diamonds, these are exempt from this grading scale and are graded on their overall colour including; hue, saturation, tone and the distribution of colour.

Please see our **'Colour Scale'** below which explains each grade in more detail.

The Colour Scale



Understanding Diamonds

Diamond Carat

Diamond Carat

Diamonds are measured in mass unit of 'carat' which takes into account the weight, as opposed to the actual size of the diamond.

Traditionally, carob seeds were used as a reference for the individual weight of a diamond. Today, the system has been standardized and a metric 'carat' is defined as 200 milligrams.

Carat is divided into points, for example, 1 carat is 100 points.

0.25ct = 25 points

0.50ct = 50 points

0.75ct = 75 points

1.00ct = 100 points

Please see our '**Size Scale**' below which illustrates a variety of sizes, and the relative diameters of each one.

The Size Scale

Estimating the weight of round brilliant cut diamonds



Understanding Diamonds

Diamond Cut

Diamond Cut

When it comes to determining what is the most important aspect when purchasing a diamond, many consumers will look to Colour or Clarity. Whilst these are generally important characteristics, the Cut of the diamond will ultimately give you the most sparkle.

Cut refers to the diamond's particular ability to reflect and refract light back up through the top of the diamond, where it emits light through the facet lines in the diamond's crown.

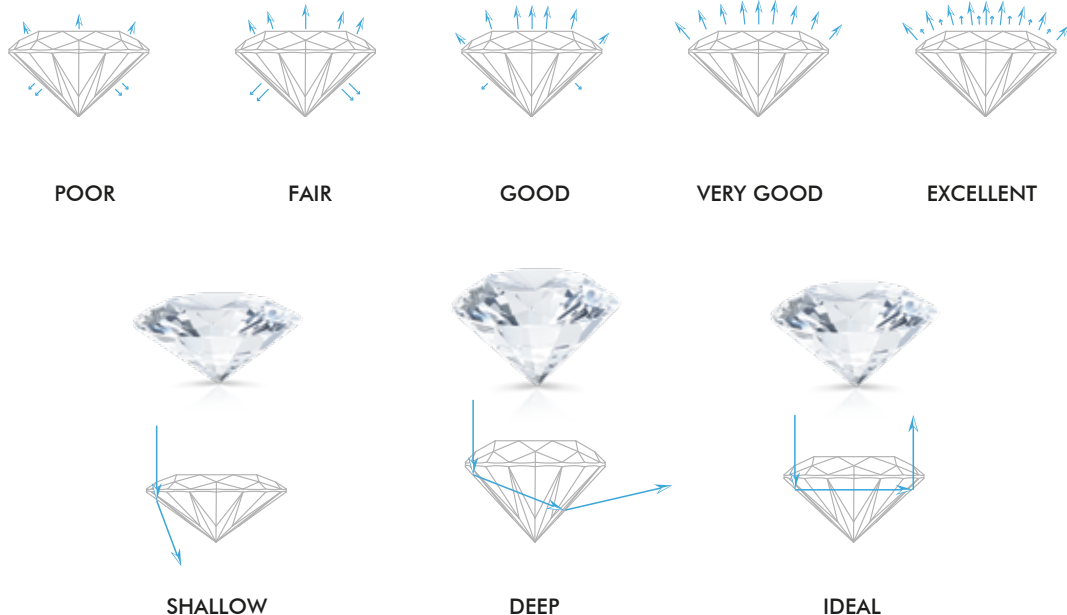
Several aspects are vital to making this happen for optimum sparkle, and all are considered when a Diamond Grader makes the final assessment on the quality of the cut of the particular Diamond.

Cut is comprised of the **Symmetry, Proportions and Polish** of the diamond. Each of these are graded from '**Poor**' up to '**Excellent**'.

Overall, Cut is the one of the most important factors to consider because ultimately, this has the greatest influence on the appearance of the stone.

Please see our '**Cut Scale**' below which explains each grade in more detail.

The Cut Scale



Understanding Diamonds Clarity Enhanced

What is a Clarity Enhanced Diamond?

A clarity enhanced diamond is a natural diamond. Most diamonds that are mined have imperfections that are called Inclusions. These are within the stone and can be visible to the naked eye. A Clarity Enhanced Diamond has gone through a process where the inclusions are boiled under an extreme, high temperature and replaced with a clear carbon silicone material. This allows the imperfections to become less visible to the naked eye and is an excellent choice, giving maximum diamond weight for your budget.

What is the Clarity Enhancement process?

A Clarity Enhanced Diamond has gone through a process where the inclusions are boiled under an extreme, high temperature and replaced with a clear carbon silicone material. The technology that has been developed and fine-tuned since the 1970's has made it possible to upgrade the quality of these unique diamonds. The material which is used to fill this inclusion has the exact same refractive quality as a diamond. In other words, once this material is in your diamond the inclusion will no longer be optically visible while the shine of your diamond and brilliance stays intact. In fact, sometimes the brilliance will even improve as the original feather in some cases can reduce some of the sparkle of your diamond.

How long does it last?

The Clarity Enhancement process is very durable, and should last a lifetime. If the diamond has been exposed to boiling acid or extreme, high temperature, it can cause the enhancement to reverse. In this rare instance, please return it to us and we will restore the enhancement free of charge.



Understanding Diamonds Clarity Enhanced

Do Clarity Enhanced Diamonds retain their value?

Yes, we have been dealing with Clarity Enhanced diamonds for over 15 years within our family business and the value of these diamonds have remained stable over that time. When purchasing a Clarity Enhanced diamond, you are essentially paying for the quality of the diamond before 'enhancement.' For example, a Non-Enhanced Diamond which had the clarity of I1 may be valued at £1,000. A Clarity Enhanced diamond which before enhancement was an I1, but now visually looks an SI1, would still hold the value of the clarity before enhancement (£1,000).

What is your warranty?

We offer a two-year warranty, against manufacturing defects and materials, where an annual service is required to maintain and guarantee the warranty. In the unlikely event your item has a manufacturing fault, please return it to us so that we can assess the item before handing it to our skilled Goldsmiths. Please note: The warranty against defects does not cover loss, damage, breakage, changes in appearance, kinks, or the gradual degradation of all or part of the goods due to normal wear, mishap, careless handling, or improper use.

How do I look after a Clarity Enhanced Diamond?

You can wear your Clarity Enhanced diamond just like you would any other diamond. However, if you are having the piece of jewellery cleaned or resized, it is important to make the jeweller aware that the stone is Clarity Enhanced.

