

Need to Know Facts When Purchasing a Diamond

Diamonds are revered for their extreme beauty and everlasting durability.

If you are confused about why some diamonds are so much more expensive than others, you are not alone. Why oh why can one diamond engagement ring be worth \$8000 and another one that doesn't look that much different to the naked eye be worth only \$2000?

The grading system for diamonds is based upon four different elements. Firstly, size will play a large role in the price. This is referred to as the "carat weight," and it is determined on a 100 point scale. The larger the carat weight, the higher the value.

Carat size may push the price up, but only slightly if there is no clarity. Several facets determine clarity on both an internal and external basis. Internal aspects, dubbed inclusions, and external aspects, dubbed blemishes, all contribute to the overall clarity score.

The clarity of a diamond can vary from 'pure' to heavily included. This designation is arrived at after analyzing the how many inclusions are found as well where the inclusions are located, whether they are tinted, and how large they are.

These differences are due to the cooling process of the diamonds against other materials. Lack of clarity is a lack of perfection. A diamond is forever, and no one wants to be stuck with an imperfect one forever; therefore, this impacts the price.

Color is the next factor that determines a diamond's overall value. If possible, a diamond should be as clear as water, but this is not always the case. Colors from other gases and minerals around during the time of the diamond's formation may have altered its clean appearance and left the gem tinted.

The color of a diamond ranges from "D," which is a complete lack of color, to "Z," which depicts a very noticeable coloration. Diamonds are priced highly if they are deeply colored or are exceptionally clear. Hazy, off-colored diamonds are not considered a favorable item, so they are priced lower.

Lastly we need to understand the effect of the cut on pricing. The quality of the cut may not be as easy to evaluate for an inexperienced buyer as some of the other factors, but it is nevertheless a critical element as it gives the diamond its sparkle.

To view a diamond from the point of view of the cut is to investigate whether or not it has any 'fire'. Like the other criteria for grading, the cut has its own grading scale that goes from excellent to irregular. If the diamond doesn't knock your socks off then it likely has not been cut very well.

Understand the 4 elements that make a diamond a special and precious gem: carat, clarity, color and cut. Knowing the difference between a dud and a dazzling diamond will be the difference between money spent poorly and money well spent.

About the Author

Learn more about diamonds now. Discover why [simulated diamonds](#) can be a great alternative to the real thing, and how to recognize [cheap engagement rings](#) before you pay too much.

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