

Key facts: Diamonds

- A diamond is the pure symbol of love.
- The term "diamond" without further specification exclusively implies "natural diamond" – a diamond of natural origin.
- The quality of a diamond is determined by the **4Cs** rule. They are: Carat weight, Colour, Clarity and Cut.
- The key thing to note is that no one C is more significant than another. A particular combination of the 4 Cs can be chosen to suit a particular budget, occasion, design or jewellery piece.
- CIBJO's Diamond Grading standard is ISO 24016.

Carat weight

Carat is the weight unit for diamonds. One carat (equivalent to 200 milligrams) can be divided into 100 "points". A 0.75 carat diamond may also be described as a 75-point or a ¾ carat diamond.



Colour

Diamonds are found in almost every colour of the rainbow, but colourless diamonds remain the most popular. There are several subtle colour-grades for colourless diamonds commonly reported as ranging from D to Z. Variations between each colour grades are so slight that the colour of a diamond must be graded by experts under standardized lighting conditions and compared against a diamond master set for accuracy.

	CIBJO	GIA
Colourless	Exceptional White+ (D)	D
	Exceptional White (E)	E
	Rare White+ (F)	F
Near colourless	Rare White (G)	G
	White (H)	H
Slightly Tinted White (I/J)		I
		J
Faint yellow	Tinted White (K/L)	K
		L
Very light yellow	Tinted	M
		N
		O
		P
		Q
		R
Light yellow	Tinted	S
		T
		U
		V
		W
		X
		Y
Z		

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Clarity

Every diamond is unique. Nature ensures that each diamond is as individual as the person who wears it. Naturally-occurring features namely inclusions or flaws provide a special fingerprint within the stone. Usually invisible to the naked eye, these tiny inclusions, such as minerals, appeared while the diamonds were forming in the earth.

The number, type, colour, size and position of these inclusions can affect the value of a diamond. However, many can only be seen by experts using a 10-power magnification loupe. Even with the loupe, the tiniest inclusions can be very difficult to find.

Flawless diamonds are rarer and thus, more expensive, but small inclusions do not affect the beauty or the brilliance of a diamond.

CIBJO's Diamond Grading standard is ISO 24016.

Clarity Grading Scales*	
CIBJO	GIA
Loupe Clean	Flawless
	Internally Flawless
VVS ₁	VVS ₁
VVS ₂	VVS ₂
VS ₁	VS ₁
VS ₂	VS ₂
SI ₁	SI ₁
SI ₂	SI ₂
P ₁	I ₁
P ₂	I ₂
P ₃	I ₃

- Key:**
- VVS** Very, very slightly included (very, very small inclusions)
 - VS** Very slightly included (very small inclusions)
 - SI** Slightly included (small inclusions)
 - I** Included
 - P** Piqué

* There are other clarity grading systems used by other laboratories around the world.



Cut

The cut of a diamond is defined by its shape and its cutting style. The shape refers to the diamond's outline and its cutting style depends on the form and the respective positions of its facets.

The cut of a diamond may be round, brilliant; octagonal step cut (also referred to as 'emerald cut'); pear-shaped, modified brilliant; square, fancy cut (also referred to as 'princess cut'), etc.

Only the cut of round brilliant cut diamonds might be graded. CIBJO's Diamond Grading standard is ISO 24016.



Treated diamonds

Diamonds are treated in an attempt to improve their appearance.

The fact that a diamond has been treated shall be disclosed. (CIBJO Diamond Book, clause "Treated Diamond").

Artificial Products

Artificial products are partially or completely made by man. Artificial products can be synthetic diamonds, diamond imitations (or simulants), for example: glass, composite materials (or assembled) stones, reconstructed material, or any man-made material, including plastic.

The clause "Synthetic diamond" of the CIBJO Diamond Book and the International Standard 'ISO 18323 – Consumer Confidence in the Diamond Industry' describe the nomenclature that specifically applies to synthetic diamonds.

NOTE – A gemstone, other than a diamond that may be represented as a diamond, shall always be referred to by its mineral name, it shall not be described as an imitation of diamond (CIBJO Diamond Book, clause "Imitation or simulant of diamonds").