



For your bench. At your side.

Platinum, Gold & Silver Testing Instructions

Testing for Platinum

Rub the article on a test stone and apply a drop of platinum solution. A platinum mark will remain the same white color with no reaction.

Testing for Gold

Steps

1. Scratch the piece to be tested over the surface of a testing stone —press firmly, leaving a visible deposit, preferably a line 1"–1½" long.
2. Add a drop of the 10K solution to the scratched area. If the solution dissolves the scratch on the stone, the object is less than 10K gold or not gold at all. If the solution leaves the scratch intact, the object is 10K gold or greater than 10K gold.
3. Repeat the scratching and testing with the 14K solution. If the solution dissolves the scratch on the stone, the object is less than 14K gold (if the scratch dissolves slowly and leaves rusty color particles, it is probably 12K gold). If the solution leaves the scratch intact, the object is 14K gold or greater than 14K. CAUTION: Many objects are marked 14K, but were fabricated prior to 1982 when it was legal to mark items 14K, but in reality the gold was 13.5K. When testing 13.5K gold, the 14K solution will not dissolve the scratch, but it will make the scratch lose its brightness, making it turn a yellow-rusty color.
4. Repeat the scratching and testing with the 18K and 22K solutions (if available) to determine the karat of the object. When the solution dissolves the scratch slowly and leaves rusty color particles, the tested piece is probably two karats lower than the solution being used. For accurate testing, we recommend that the user becomes familiar with comparative testing using standard gold testing needles.

Note: Heavyweight items such as chains and coins may be plated. Make a deep notch in the piece and perform testing on the metal inside.

Testing for Silver

Steps

1. Scratch the piece to be tested over the surface of a testing stone —press firmly, leaving a large, thick visible deposit, preferably a line 1"–1½" long.
2. Add a drop of the RED silver solution to the scratched area. The color reaction of the solution with the metal scratch will be as follows (take into consideration that the background of a testing stone is black):

Fine Silver (.999)	=	Bright Red
.925 Silver	=	Dark Red
Silver 800	=	Brown
Silver 500	=	Green

Note: It is possible to test directly on the piece being tested with silver solution; however, the solution will dull the finish and leave a mark where the acid was placed.

⚠ CAUTION! Always wear eye protection and gloves when performing these processes. Use extreme care when handling platinum, gold and silver testing solutions; they are corrosive acids. In case of skin contact, flush with large amounts of water then treat the affected area with sodium bicarbonate or baking soda. If solutions are swallowed, contact a physician or hospital at once. In case of spills, treat with water and then sodium bicarbonate or baking soda. Always work in a well-ventilated area.