

Diamond



Birth stone: April

Anniversary stone: 30th & 60th year of marriage

History:

Diamonds have long been regarded for their exceptional beauty and have been used to symbolise love and devotion throughout history. Creating a source of fascination for centuries, diamonds are the most precious and enduring of all gemstones.

It is only when a diamond reaches the earth's surface, after billions of years in the making, that the true brilliance of each individual stone is known. With only a small number of stones surviving this long and difficult journey even fewer will be suitable to be made into an exquisite piece of jewellery. This rare and beautiful gemstone is surrounded in mystery and steeped in legend making it highly desirable and sort after by men and women of all ages.

First used as a symbol of marriage over 500 years ago when the Archduke of Austria gave a diamond to Mary of Burgundy, diamonds are still the most popular of all gemstones to be used in engagement rings today. Derived from the Greek word "adamas" meaning "indestructible", diamonds are said to represent strength and courage and their purity and everlasting beauty quickly made them a popular gift of love.

Found in varying deposits around the world including Australia, Ghana, Russia, the USA and Brazil large scale mining and the development of effective cutting techniques has led to diamonds becoming a luxury affordable by all.

Characteristics:

Diamonds possess many qualities that make them an ideal gemstone for setting into many types of jewellery. Used with a variety of precious metals from silver to platinum, diamonds are available in a large range of different shapes and carat weights. Their durability and lasting sparkle has meant that diamonds can be cut into many different shapes, from the traditional round brilliant cut to the more modern emerald and princess cuts. This versatility enables them to be used in a large variety of designs from simple solitaires to extravagant clusters and fancy pieces.

In their rarest and therefore most desirable form, diamonds are colourless although flawless diamonds are extremely rare with most stones containing small inclusions also known as "nature's finger prints". Some of these inclusions are more visible than others appearing as dark spots of carbon or white feather like inclusions within the diamond.

The Mohs' scale measures a gems relative hardness on a scale of 1 to 10 based on the stones "scratchability". Diamond is the hardest at 10, sapphire and rubies measure 9, with pearl at around 3 ½ and amber at 2 ½.

Care and Cleaning:

Diamonds are extremely tough, hard wearing natural gemstones which retain their high polish and lustre well, making them relatively easy to care for. Diamonds are so hard that they can only be cut or polished by other diamonds, it is for this reason diamond jewellery should not be stored where it can rub against other gemstones as this could cause wear and scratching of other gem set jewellery.

Diamond jewellery can be cleaned with any conventional jewellery cleaner and a toothbrush can also be used to clean away any dirt or oil. Specialist ultra sonic cleaners found in jewellery stores can also be used without damaging the stone.

Legend and Lore:

Their exceptional beauty and rarity has lead to diamonds being surrounded by many legends. Believed by many to possess magical powers, diamonds are said to protect the wearer against ghosts and magic also giving strength and courage, making them a popular talisman to be worn on the battle field.

Diamonds were also said to have great healing abilities, used to cure stomach aches and commonly used to detect and cure poisoning.

Used as an everlasting symbol of love throughout history the diamond is a welcome gift for all occasions.

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