

The Bucks Goldsmiths Guide to Diamond Quality

You may print this guide for your own reference. If you are looking to select a diamond of quality for your own special occasion, please contact one of our experienced jewellers on (01753) 888 015 to arrange a visit.

In General

Whilst a diamond's carat weight (size) may seem the most important guide to a diamond's true value, it is only part of the story. To establish a diamond's quality, jewellers examine the 4Cs - carat weight, clarity, colour and cut. It is this combination of features that determines the true quality and value of a particular diamond.

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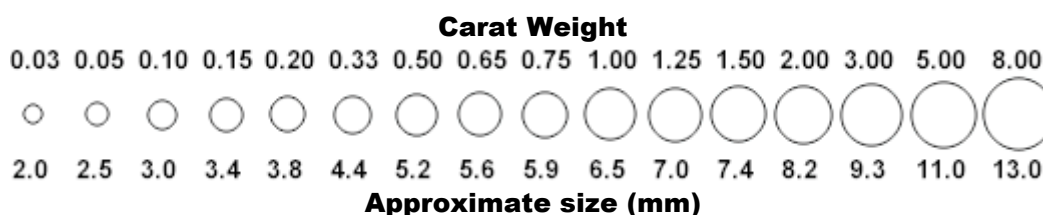
Choosing a stone (or stones) that offer the best combination of the 4Cs will always be a wise investment. At Bucks Gold, we'll also help you understand the fifth (most important?) "C" when it comes to choosing a diamond - Confidence. We specialise in helping you select the right stones to suit your budget and the occasion. You are able to play an integral part in creating a piece of quality jewellery that is totally unique - a fitting tribute to the one you love.

At Bucks Gold we'll not only tell you about the "4Cs", we'll help you understand the fifth (most important) C in choosing - Confidence.

By creating most of our jewellery to order and in-house, we are able to offer products which are price competitive and of far higher quality than most "High Street" jewellery chains.

Carat weight - the size of the stone

Put simply, the larger the diamond - the rarer the diamond. Larger diamonds are found relatively infrequently in nature, and tend to show off fine colour and cut more readily than smaller stones. A diamond's size is measured in carat weight, and each carat is equal to 100 points. A .75 carat diamond is the same as a 75-point diamond or a 3/4 carat stone. The chart below shows carat weight against a rough approximation of diamond size in mm (only suitable for round-cut diamonds).



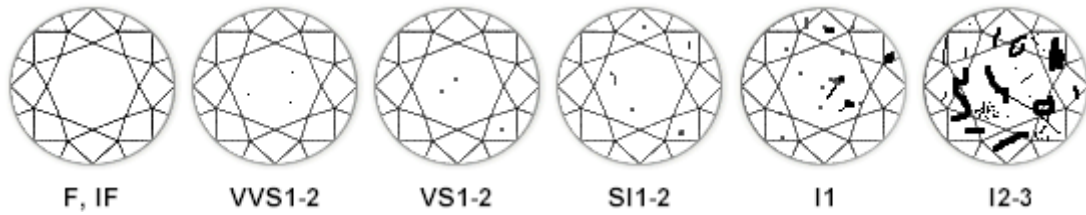
Clarity - a stone's purity

The greater a diamond's clarity, the more brilliant, valuable and rare it is. Virtually all natural diamonds contain identifying characteristics, yet many are invisible to the naked eye. Under a 10x-magnifying glass natural phenomena - called inclusions - may be seen. These are nature's birthmarks, and they may look like tiny crystals, clouds, or feathers.

Diamonds categorized as internally flawless reveal no such inclusions. Diamonds with very, very small inclusions are graded as VVS1 or VVS2. The larger the inclusion, the lower the grade and the less rare the diamond. Inclusions that can be seen with the naked eye are graded I1 to I3. The number, color, type, size and position of surface and internal birthmarks

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affect a diamond's value. Major inclusions can interfere with the path of light that travels through a diamond, diminishing its brilliance and sparkle and therefore its value.



Colour

Whilst many diamonds appear colourless, they may actually have subtle yellow or brown tones. Colourless stones, the most valuable, are graded D. Diamonds which do contain some colour are still beautiful, but they will be less valuable. The easiest way to spot colour difference is by comparing stones under the guidance of a jeweller.

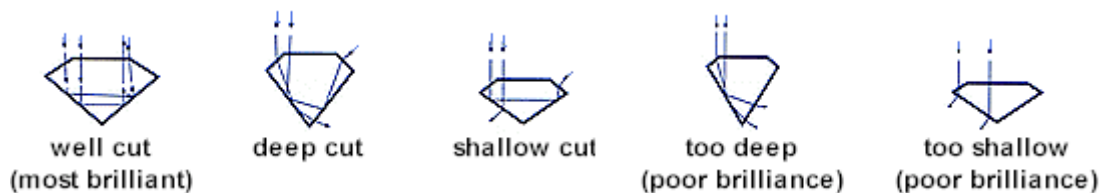


Whilst a small amount of colour can reduce a diamond's value, "fancy" diamonds - in well defined colors that include red, pink, blue, green and canary yellow - are highly prized and particularly rare.

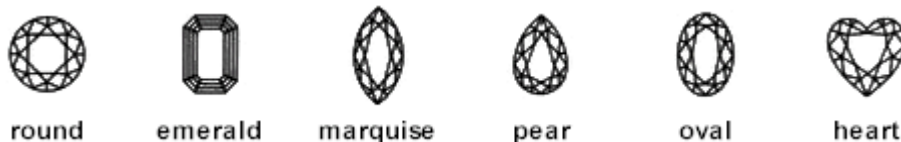
Cut - through skill, not nature

A well cut or faceted diamond, regardless of its shape, shines and sparkles in the light. Whilst carat weight, clarity, and colour are determined by nature, cut can only be realised by the work of a skilled craftsman. The sparkle comes from light reflecting from one mirror-like facet to another and then dispersing through the top of the stone.

Diamonds that are cut too deep or too shallow lose light that spills through the side or bottom. As a result, poorly cut stones will be less brilliant and beautiful -- and certainly less valuable.



Diamonds can be cut into a variety of shapes - the most popular of which are shown below.



About BucksGold

Established for more than 25 years, Bucks Goldsmiths specialise in the redesign and manufacture of both existing and new jewellery. We are proud to offer our clients a highly professional and discreet service at our premises, based in Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Please call our team on 01753 888 015. We look forward to making you something special.