

February 2011 Chamber Article

By Eileen R. Eichhorn

## WHITE GOLD

Today, white gold seems to be the choice for modern brides in selecting diamond engagement and wedding rings. Just as brides of the past enjoyed white gold it is important to be aware that even though a diamond is forever, rhodium plating is temporary. Some rings may need to be rhodium plated yearly if worn daily. Other wearers may elect to have done as needed. Other jewelry items that can be re-plated are pendants and bracelets. You can tell when the plating is wearing away by the look of the piece; the area without the plating will show a slight yellowish color of the original white gold. Never fear, most rings can be re-plated.

Rhodium is a precious metal, a member of the platinum family. Rhodium electroplating is used to provide a surface that will resist scratches and tarnish, and give a white, reflective appearance. Rhodium plating is most often found on white gold. White gold is a misnomer because all gold is naturally yellow. White gold is an alloy of gold and a white metal – usually nickel, silver, or palladium. In order to obtain a bright white look, a rhodium electroplating is applied.

If you are shopping for a new piece of jewelry in white gold, platinum, or silver, be sure and ask the jeweler if the item has been rhodium plated. Often, customers buy rhodium-plated pieces without realizing it—knowing how your new jewelry was made will help you maintain it properly and enjoy its beauty for years.

**Eichhorn Jewelry, prides itself in providing quality rhodium plating services for white gold rings as well as repairing other jewelry items. Stop in today and inquire about our restoration service. Treat your ring to a much needed detailing at Eichhorn Jewelry, Inc. In the Heart of Downtown Decatur [www.eichhornjewelry.com](http://www.eichhornjewelry.com).**