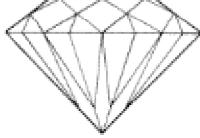




"In The Heart Of
Downtown Decatur"



Diamond

Definition

Diamonds are formed as crystals of pure carbon. The name diamond refers to its hardness (Greek - Adamas, unconquerable). There is nothing comparable to its hardness; it is therefore nearly imperishable. Its cutting resistance is 140 times greater than that of corundum (ruby & sapphire). However, the hardness of a diamond is different in the different crystal faces in which it formed, between 75 and 120 miles beneath the surface of the earth under great heat and pressure. This allows diamonds to be fashioned by using one diamond to cut another diamond, from the proper angle. Diamonds have been mined and cut for at least 3,000 years, beginning in ancient India, the original source, and only persons of fabulous wealth or royalty acquired them. Later, during the beginning of the eighteenth century, Brazil became a new discovery for diamonds and was very important to the diamond trade until the first significant discovery of diamonds in South Africa during 1867. That led the way to our modern situation of precious diamonds becoming available to virtually anyone. Today diamonds are found on every continent, although not everywhere in commercially viable quantities and qualities.

Folklore

The ancients declared that the magic powers of diamond were so superior that a lodestone would lose its magnetism in the presence of diamond. It is easily proved that a diamond, when rubbed, will pick up small pieces of paper and other light objects because of the static electrical charge induced. (When rubbed on wool it becomes electrically positive.) Probably it was this fact that lively imaginations developed into magical powers. No one thought of experimenting to discover whether the fact was true. Intellectual theory was supposedly vastly superior to practical experiment, particularly in Greek times. The value of experiment was not appreciated until the

Trade Names

canary, champagne, jonquil, coffee- used as descriptive labels for some of the fancy color diamonds. Cape - old color term referring to yellowish diamonds. River - old color term referring to colorless diamonds. Jager - colorless with strong blue fluorescence. Premier - yellowish with strong blue fluorescence. Pique - traditional term referring to stones of lower clarity. Chameleon - a diamond that, in darkness, is golden yellow, but upon exposure to light rapidly changes to grayish green.

Treatment

Most diamond treatments are considered permanent, all should be disclosed at the point of sale.

Consumer

To clean diamond jewelry, use a good quality commercial cleaner, rinse and towel dry. Most jewelry should be professionally cleaned and checked by a qualified jeweler every 3-6 months. Avoid swimming pools and hot tubs, as well as any harsh chemicals with any gold jewelry to prevent chemical attack of the gold alloys.

Details

Species	diamond
Specific Hardness	3.52
Hardness	10
Toughness	Excellent
Refractive	2.417
Birefringence	none
Optic Character	SR
Pleochroism	none
Flouresence	LW; inert-strong SW; weak
Clarity Type	none

Locations

Africa, Russia, Australia, Brazil, Venezuela, diamonds are found on every continent, however, the named countries supply the largest amounts of commercial diamonds

Care

Torch	good
Ultrasonic	Excellent
Steamer	Excellent
Chemicals	na
Chemical Composition	C
Pickling	Excellent