

Choosing the right diamond

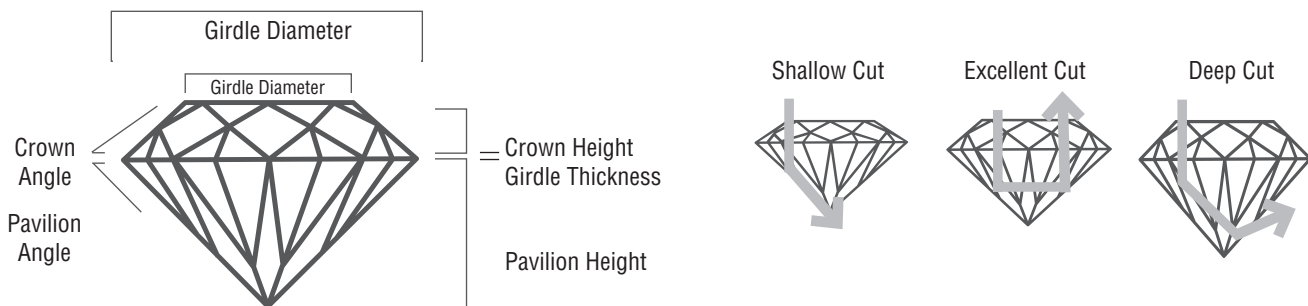
The old saying, “If you don’t know your jewelry, know your jeweler” is still true. We educate our customers during their experience at Herbert’s. We view this as the most important aspect of shopping for a diamond so our customers can make informed decisions while choosing the diamond of a lifetime. The quality and price of a diamond equal its value. These factors are determined by the diamond’s clarity, color, cut and carat weight. These are the Four C’s.

Cut

Diamonds are renowned for their ability to transmit light and sparkle so intensely. We often think of a diamond’s cut as shape (round, emerald, pear), but a diamond’s cut grade is really about how well a diamond’s facets interact with light.



Precise artistry and workmanship are required to fashion a stone so its proportions, symmetry, and polish deliver the magnificent return of light only possible in a diamond.



Color












The diamond color evaluation of most gem-quality diamonds is based on the absence of color. A chemically pure and structurally perfect diamond has no hue, like a drop of pure water, and consequently, a higher value.

GIA Color Scale																							
D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	Z +
Colorless			Near Colorless				Faint Yellow				Very Light Yellow												Fancy

Clarity

Natural diamonds are the result of carbon exposed to tremendous heat and pressure deep in the earth. This process can result in a variety of internal characteristics called 'inclusions' and external characteristics called 'blemishes.'

Evaluating diamond clarity involves determining the number, size, relief, nature, and position of these characteristics, as well as how these affect the overall appearance of the stone. While no diamond is perfectly pure, the closer it comes, the higher its value.

Clarity										
										
FL	IF	VVS1	VVS2	VS1	VS2	SI1	SI2	I1	I2	I3
<p>Flawless (FL) - No inclusions or blemishes are visible to a skilled grader using 10x magnification</p> <p>Internally Flawless (IF) - No inclusions and only blemishes are visible to a skilled grader using 10x magnification</p> <p>Very, Very Slightly Included (VVS1 and VVS2) - Inclusions are difficult for a skilled grader to see under 10x magnification</p>					<p>Very Slightly Included (VS1 and VS2) - Inclusions are minor and range from difficult to somewhat easy for a skilled grader to see under 10x magnification</p> <p>Slightly Included (SI1 and SI2) - Inclusions are noticeable to a skilled grader under 10x magnification</p> <p>Included (I1, I2, and I3) - Inclusions are obvious under 10x magnification and may affect transparency and brilliance</p>					














Carat

Just as a dollar is divided into 100 pennies, a carat is divided into 100 points. For example, a 50-point diamond weighs 0.50 carats. But two diamonds of equal weight can have very different values depending on the other members of the Four C's: clarity, color and cut. The majority of diamonds used in fine jewelry weigh one carat or less.

Because even a fraction of a carat can make a considerable difference in cost, precision is crucial. In the diamond industry, weight is often measured to the hundred thousandths of a carat, and rounded to a hundredth of a carat. Diamond weights greater than one carat are expressed in carats and decimals. (For instance, a 1.08 ct. stone would be described as "one point oh eight carats," or "one oh eight.")

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	5.00 ct 11.2mm		4.00 ct 10.4mm
	3.00 ct 9.4mm		2.50 ct 8.8mm
	2.00 ct 8.2mm		1.75 ct 7.8mm
	1.50 ct 7.4mm		1.25 ct 7.0mm
	1.00 ct 6.5mm		3/4 ct 5.8mm
	5/8 ct 5.6mm		1/2 ct 5.2mm
	3/8 ct 4.6mm		