

Metals and Gemstones Info:

For centuries Gemstones have been **imitated**. Ceramic & Glass, Waxes & Resins have been used in their place. **Synthetic stones** are not imitations; rather, they are identical to their natural counterparts, chemically & physically. Their optical properties are the same. **Simulants** do not exist in a natural form. Simulated gems are cut from laboratory grown, or formed, crystals. A firm named Chatham has won a US court protected right to call their laboratory grown Emeralds "Chatham **Created** Emeralds".

Karat Markings and Purity

Karat	Percentage	Parts per Thousand of Pure Gold
24K	= 100%	= 1000
22K	= 95.83%	= 958
18K	= 75%	= 750
15K	= 62.5%	= 625 England & UK
14K	= 58.33%	= 583
10K	= 41.67%	= 416
9K	= 37.5%	= 375 England & UK

Gold Filled - A layer of gold has been joined to a surface of base metal such as brass or nickel. This is usually done by Heavy Electro Plating.

Rolled Gold - In Victorian times this was a term used to describe a type of Gold Plating where a layer of gold can be joined to the base metal by soldering and mill rolling the gold, not simply on to, but into the surface. 1/20 12KGF assures that the gold is 12 Karat (50% pure gold) and that the plated part is 1/20 (5%) of the total weight of the metal. Other qualities of *Gold Filled* can be found.

Gold Plated - means that the object is made of a base metal and a thin coating (film) of gold has been deposited onto the surface of the base metal by electroplating. The base metal can be spelter, nickel, brass or copper.

Vermeil – When an object, usually a piece of jewellery, is made of Sterling Silver or Fine Silver and it is *plated with Gold* the French word that means "True Honey" is used. It is pronounced: *vair-may*.

Platinum - Platinum is an element. It is very heavy and quite valuable. Until the very end of the 19th Century, when modern equipment developments made it possible to work this tenacious white metal, it was not considered suitable for jewellery fabrication. It is that tenacity which makes it possible for a very small amount of Platinum to securely and almost invisibly hold valuable gemstones and diamonds.