



## TYPES OF METAL

### Sterling silver / AG

The sterling alloy originated in continental Europe and was being used for commerce as early as the 12th century in the area that is now northern Germany.

Sterling silver is an alloy of silver that consists of 92.5% pure silver and 7.5% of other metal, usually copper. Fine silver (99.9% pure) typically is too soft for practical objects. Alloying with copper maintains the silvery colour of the metal while increasing its strength.

Silver is a cost-effective metal which can be used for all fine jewellery except diamonds as it is a very soft metal.

Hallmarked: 925 or SIL.

### Gold / Au

Copper and gold are the only metals on earth which are not white or have any variations of grey in their colour. This then means that gold is the only precious metal on earth which is non-white. Fine gold (24ct) must be alloyed with other metals as it is too soft to work with or wear as jewellery on its own. Being alloyed with other metals will make it harder, denser and more durable. An alloy can be described as a mixture of two or more metals. In the field of jewellery, one refers to the other types of metals which are added to the "fine" metal as the alloy. Precious metals are alloyed for various reasons: Gold is alloyed for three reasons, to change the working properties and colour of the gold and to lower the cost of the metal. According to the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS), only four types of gold alloys are recognised within the country. These alloys include 9ct, 14ct, 18ct and 22ct.

Note: Don't be confused with the word 'carat' being thrown around in the jewellery industry, the word has two different meanings. Carat can refer to the unit of measurement which indicates the weight of the gemstone or can indicate the proportion (by weight) of fine gold which is present in a specific alloy.

Hallmarked:

9ct | 375 14ct | 585 18ct | 750

## **Palladium / PD**

Palladium is the newest precious metal. A platinum group metal, palladium is rare, lustrous, and naturally white. Palladium has the purity and white tone of platinum but is less dense, making it more affordable.

From the same metal family as platinum, palladium is a naturally bright white metal. However, palladium is lighter and less dense than platinum, which also means that it's lighter on your wallet. Since palladium isn't as heavy as platinum, you can wear elaborate palladium earrings or large palladium bracelets without feeling like a heavy weight is pulling you down.

Hallmarked: PD

## **Platinum / PT**

Often heralded as just as beautiful as the gems it displays, platinum boasts a silvery-white lustre that imparts unmistakable elegance and blends well with a variety of metals and stones. Four times stronger than gold, platinum is renowned for its hard-wearing properties, resistance to damage and wear, and its substantial heft.

At Brilliance, we're proud to offer a wide assortment of platinum settings for our finest jewellery pieces. All of our platinum consists of at least 95% pure platinum, with a maximum of 5% alloy metals. Nearly all of our solitaire and engagement rings have platinum prongs to keep diamonds securely in place.

Considered among the most pure and precious metals used in modern-day jewellery making, platinum has become synonymous with luxury and longevity. Because of its hardness and durability, pure platinum is often mixed with other metals to make it more malleable. The most common alloy metals paired with platinum are copper, palladium, rhodium, iridium, and titanium.

Hallmarked:PT