

The 4 Cs Guide to Quality Diamonds

The 4 Cs are a quick and easy way to assist you in finding high quality diamonds by comparing the CARAT, CLARITY, COLOR, and CUT of each stone. The different combinations of the 4 Cs, determine the value of that particular diamond. When selecting a stone it is best to find the right balance of the four categories that best fit your needs and budget.



Carat: The larger the size the more rare the stone

Large diamonds are found less frequently in nature; therefore the larger the stone the more rare and valuable it is. The desire of a large stone is that it shows off the color, cut, and brilliance to its greatest capacity. Diamond size is measured in carat weight on a 100-point scale. A .50 carat diamond is the same as a 50 point diamond or a ½ carat stone. It is important to note that carat is a weight measurement and the cut of the stone can make the stone appear larger or smaller than its weight. Although the size of a stone is a key contributor to the desirability and value of a stone, these can differ greatly based on the quality of the color, clarity, and cut.

GIA	FL - IF	VVS1	VVS2	VS1	VS2	SI1	SI2	I1	I2	I3
Clarity Grading Scale	Internally Flawless	Very Very Slight Inclusions		Very Slight Inclusions		Slight Inclusions		Imperfect		

Clarity: The more pure a stone the greater value it has

The greater the clarity of a stone the more brilliant, valuable, and rare it will be. Nearly all diamonds have some type of inclusion; these are the identifying characteristics of the stone. Many inclusions can only be seen under 10x magnifications and have no effect on the appearance to the naked eye. Diamonds are grouped by the degree to which they are included. Flawless stones are at the top of the color grading scale and are very rare and extremely valuable. Stones with very minor inclusions are graded VVS₁ or VVS₂, while those that have inclusions visible to the eye are graded I₁ to I₃. The type of inclusion, the area in which they appear, the number, and the color of the inclusion all affect a diamond's value.

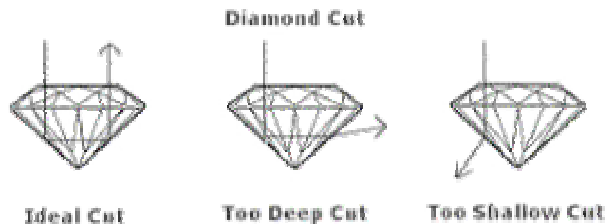
Color: White, Bright, and Beautiful

Diamonds are graded by color on a letter scale that starts at D and continues down the alphabet. Stones that receive a D grading are completely colorless and are the most rare and valuable stones. Stones graded in the lower letters often have brown or yellow tones to them, which lowers the desirability and value of the diamond. Colorless stones are the most treasured because they reflect light more vividly and provide a brilliant rainbow spectrum of color. On the opposite end of the grading scale beautiful and very valuable stones exist in the Z+ category. These stones are known as “Fancy” color diamonds and appear in red, pink, blue, green, and yellow.

D-E-F	G-H-I-J	K-L-M	N-R	S-Z	Z+
Colorless	Near Color Less	Faint Yellow	Very Light Yellow	Light Yellow To Brown	Fancy

CUT: The better the cut, the more brilliant the diamond

When a diamond is well cut it scintillates with color and light providing the stone with a remarkable brilliance. The cut is the only quality of a diamond affected by the human hand. When it is cut to the proper proportions, light will refract through the diamond bouncing from facet to facet and disperse through the top of the stone providing a gorgeous radiance. If a stone is cut poorly, whether too deep or too shallow all the light is not refracted throughout the diamond. Some of the light will be lost through the sides or bottom of the stone. The more well cut a diamond the greater value it will hold.



The 5th C

Here at Frassanito Jewelers we believe very strongly in providing our customers with not only the winning combination of the 4 C's but also providing the important 5th C, Confidence. As a family-run business in operation since 1935, we have built our reputation on trust and personal relationships. We take great care pride in helping our customers select just the right diamond to meet their needs.