

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN
BUYING AN
ENGAGEMENT RING

GERARD  MCCABE



You've met the love of your life

You've decided you want to be engaged. Now you've got some important decisions to make. Do you surprise and involve her in the engagement purchase?

If you're on the hunt for the right engagement ring, it's important to determine your partner's style. Try looking at her existing jewellery style; is she conservative, classic, bright or flamboyant? Will she like something more subtle in design or something that will catch passersby attention?

Has your partner been hunting online for rings? Has she left pictures lying around, or tagged you in anything online?

One of the best ways to find out what she likes is reaching out to a good friend. Ask someone you can trust, women love to share wedding plans and aspirations, so it won't be too hard for a good friend of hers to point you in the right direction.



Once you've got an idea, start with the style and end with the diamond...

1. Types of engagement ring styles: solitaire, three stone, halo, cluster, embellished with engraving, pattern work or antique.

2. Metal: white, yellow, rose gold or platinum

3. Diamond Shape: round, princess, cushion, marquise, oval, radiant, pear, emerald or heart. Future-proof your ring: how will it look with a wedding or anniversary ring?

4. Pick your diamond.



Diamonds

Buying a diamond is a much more involved process than you may have realised. From grading systems, certificates, a multitude of shapes and sizes and price points, it's quite overwhelming.

Our team at Gerard McCabe understand how enormous choosing an engagement ring can be, so we've put together this guide, which aims to unravel the mystery surrounding diamonds.

This guide will help you in your quest to find the perfect engagement ring.



Shape

The most dominant feature of an engagement ring is the diamond itself, and there are many different shapes to choose from.

Round, square or something more out there? How do you know? Luckily you know your partner. Picture her as you are reading through the options. What style of jewellery does she wear? Has she ever mentioned a preference for a certain diamond shape? Be sure to have her at the forefront of your mind as your scroll through designs and creations.





Shape

Round brilliant cut diamonds and Princess cut (Square) diamonds are both classic shapes. Proven to be popular and stand the test of time. If your partner likes classic designs and simple yet breathtaking craftsmanship, then this might be the shape for her.

Fancier, more intricate-shaped diamonds are fantastic options for women who love unique, standalone, statement jewellery. Cushion cut, Oval, Emerald cut and Pear shape diamonds are all excellent choices that lend themselves to stylish engagement ring designs.

These cuts, traditionally, are bright and sparkly, yet classic enough to always be a fashionable option. They are truly timeless.



The Four C's

The 4 C's is a term you will hear bouncing around as soon as you enter a jewellery store, so it's important to understand their significance.

Representing Cut, Colour, Clarity and Carat, the 4C's are crucial in choosing the best diamond for your engagement ring.

Sometimes a 5th C is thrown into the mix, and this represents Certificate.



Cut

The cut of the diamond is one of the most important characteristics to consider.

When a jeweller refers to the cut, they are not discussing the shape, but rather how well the gem has been crafted into its shape. Diamonds are crafted with both the use of lasers and polished by hand by skilled craftsmen.

The term 'Cut' takes into consideration the symmetry of the diamond's facets, the proportions of the top and bottom of the gem, how well the facets have been polished and how clean the lines on the diamond are.



Cut

The subtle differences in the way a diamond is cut can have an enormous influence on the look of the gem. Diamonds give the most amount of sparkle when all the light that enters the diamond, bounces around inside the gem and is reflected back out through the top of the stone.

Poorly-cut diamonds that are too deep or too shallow will lose light out of the back or side of the stone and thus not have a desirable sparkle. The difference in sparkle is also attributed to differences in cuts - thus making each diamond unique in its own way.

It's the cut of a diamond that is the most important characteristics, and at Gerard McCabe, we only select diamonds based on brilliance, fire and scintillation.



Colour

A diamond's colour is its most valuable characteristic, after cut. Diamond colour is graded by an alphabetical scale starting at D for the rarest, colourless diamonds and ending on Z (tinted yellow). The more colourless a diamond is, the most beautiful and valuable it is.

In order to determine the colour of diamonds, they are graded when the gemstone is loose. Diamonds are placed upside down and visually graded against master gemstones to assess their colour.



Diamond Colour and Clarity Chart sourced via From My Diamond Eye



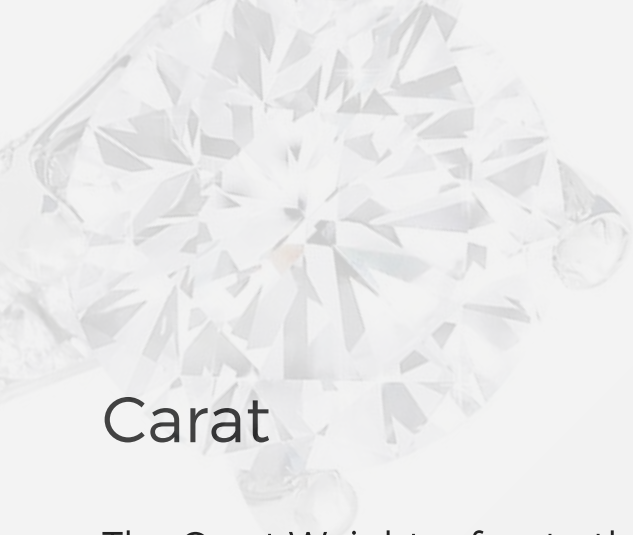
Clarity

Clarity refers to the presence of natural birthmarks inside the diamond. It's this clarity that is very important to the overall appearance and value of the finished masterpiece. These natural blemishes are referred to as Inclusions.

All diamonds have them, and it is only in very rare cases that we come across diamonds that can be referred to as Flawless or Internally Flawless. These flawless diamonds have no inclusions, making them at the top of price points, and incredibly rare.

When determining the clarity of a diamond, it is graded at 10x magnification. Unless the diamond has a grade of Si2 or below, no inclusions are visible to the naked eye.





Carat

The Carat Weight refers to the size of the diamond. A metric carat is defined as 200 milligrams and can be subdivided into 100 points.

Traditionally diamonds were weighed by comparison with Carob beans. The process involved placing the gemstone into a balance scale, with the carob beans on the other size.

As the stone balanced out evenly against a certain amount of seeds, it would weigh that amount of seeds. For example, if the stone weighed out evenly against 5 seeds, it was said to weigh 5 seeds - then 5 carobs - then 5 carats. It was this form of measurement that gave us the term 'carats'.

Today, as the size of the diamond increases, so does the price.



Certificate

Recognised as the 5th C, the certificate is an important attribute to any diamond purchase. It is essential that you receive the proper certificates to ensure that your diamond selection is authentic.

The Gerard McCabe certificate ensures that each diamond is laser-inscribed with the GM logo, with its unique diamond stock number, linked to the purchaser. Unlike independent diamond certificates, our policy ensures that the gemstone is always able to be tracked back to you.



Certificate

The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) is the world's most respected diamond grading laboratory. The GIA certificate offers added security to diamond purchases, offering peace of mind that you've purchased a diamond that has been assessed against the strictest criteria in the world.

For added certification, some diamonds are available with the Canada Mark Certificate. These diamonds are mined in Canada, offering absolute proof of Canadian origin, stating the rough (birth) weight and finished weight of the gem.

These particular diamonds are also laser inscribed on the girdle of the diamond and can be verified via their website.



Warranty, Guarantees and Care in the future.

Consider the business that you are going to be dealing with. This is an important purchase. It's one of the few things you will buy that you expect to be with you for a lifetime, and beyond.

Questions to keep in mind are...

What kinds of warranties or guarantees come with the ring?
How long has the jeweller been in business?

You want to know that this jeweller will be there to stand by their product and also to assist you with the matching rings that you already know will fit exactly with the engagement ring, whether you decide on a 6 month or 6 year engagement.

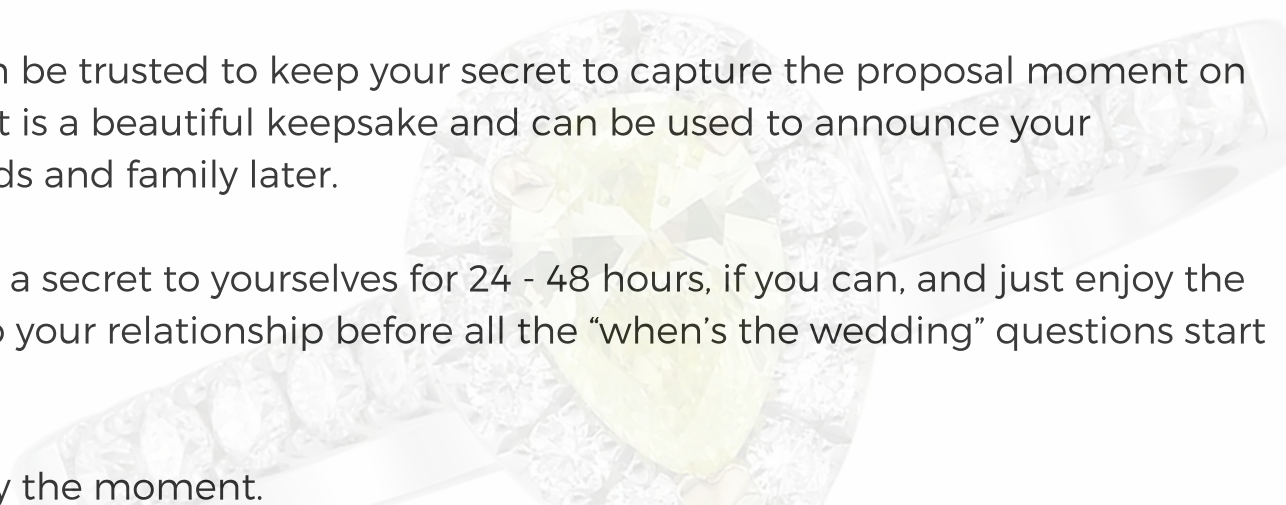




When you've chosen the right ring, give some thought to the way you want to reveal it.

Have you thought about how you are going to propose?

Tips from the Gerard McCabe Team:

1. Relax. You know your partner better than anyone. So feel confident in your decision that this is the right time.
 2. Be true to yourself. Pick a proposal place that makes you feel comfortable. I.e. if you love the outdoors then head out for a hike to a beautiful waterfall. If you love the beach, perhaps an esplanade restaurant or hotel would do the trick. Don't sweat it out at a 5-star restaurant if you are normally a trackies and pizza kind of couple (and vice versa)
 3. Recruit a friend who can be trusted to keep your secret to capture the proposal moment on video or photo from afar. It is a beautiful keepsake and can be used to announce your engagement to your friends and family later.
 4. Our tip. Keep your news a secret to yourselves for 24 - 48 hours, if you can, and just enjoy the exciting shift this brings to your relationship before all the "when's the wedding" questions start rolling in.
 5. Most importantly - Enjoy the moment.
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Matching Wedding Rings

Choosing an engagement ring is hard, but it's important you also consider the next piece of the bridal set, the wedding ring.

At Gerard McCabe, we have rings that perfectly match, as well as a range that beautifully complement one another. Specifically designed so the rings' style will sit together, these creations are all crafted with the same metal, stones and feature the same patterns. They truly enhance the beauty of each engagement ring, while fitting perfectly together to create a unique, breathtaking bridal set.

And for anniversaries, birthdays or special occasions, you can rest assured that other pieces will come together to form a stunning arrangement.

Our Adelaide Arcade and Rundle Mall boutiques boast a wide collection of wedding rings that'll sit beautifully alongside the engagement ring you select.

Explore the collection online today



Thank you for downloading this guide.

We hope it will be helpful to you in your engagement ring selection.
You might also like to take a look at some of our other guides:
(click on the titles to download)

[24 Most Asked Questions About Diamonds](#)
[How to Clean Your Jewellery](#)
[Honeymoon Destination Guide](#)

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