



**Haas and Co., Inc.**  
**23 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1100**  
**Noblesville, IN 46060**  
**317/507-5957**  
**haasandco@att.net**

## **GOLD**

### **1. What is gold?**

Gold melts at 1064 degrees centigrade and is a rare metallic metal. Gold's fineness is measured in karatage. Twenty-four karat gold is pure gold but too soft to use in most jewelry. Most gold is alloyed with other metals to strengthen its durability. Eighteen karat gold and is usually marked with 18K or 750. Fourteen karat is the most common and are usually marked with 14K or 585.

### **2. The word gold comes from where?**

Appears to be derived from the Indo-European core "yellow". It is also show in similarities of the world that the word gold in other languages.

### **3. How much gold is in the world?**

As of 2001, it seemed to be that all the gold mined would amount to about 145,000 tons. It is time consuming and expensive to extract gold from the earth and takes several tons of ore to produce just one ounce.

### **4. How is gold measured?**

Gold is measured in carats which go back to Middle Eastern times when a carat was used to assess how pure the gold alloys were and the fineness.

### **5. What is a carat?**

It started out to be a unit of mass which was based on the Carob seed used by merchants in the Middle East. For the weight of gemstones is 1 carat is about 200mg and for gold where is has come to be used for measuring the purity of gold at 24 karat gold.

### **6. How does gold get the different colors?**

Yellow gold is alloyed with copper and silver. Green gold is made by using silver, copper, and zinc. Pink gold is made using copper. White gold is made of nickel or palladium, zinc, and copper.

### **7. What factors establish the price of gold?**

The karatage, gram weight, design, and craftsmanship. Karatage and gram weight will tell you how much gold is in the item and the other factors determining price are the item's construction and design. Note that a piece that is based just on gram weight does not indicate the workmanship that has gone into the piece.

### **8. What type of plating is on gold?**

*Vermeil* gold jewelry should be a minimum of 10k gold which is applied to sterling silver at no less than 1/20 millionths of an inch thick. *Gold Filled or Gold Overlay*



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jewelry must be at least 10k gold which is instinctively bonded to the base metal with the gold content being no less than 1/20th of its total weight. Some examples: marked 1/20 10KGF, 1/10 14KGF, etc. *Gold Plated or Rolled Gold Plated* jewelry must also be at a minimum of 10k gold which is instinctively bonded to the base metal, but the gold content can be less than 1/20th of its total weight. Some examples: marked 1/40 12k RGP, 1/50 14k RGP, etc. *Gold Electro Plated* gold jewelry must be an instinctively of 10k gold applied to the base metal at no fewer than 7 millionths on an inch thick.

#### **9. Check the clasp**

When buying a necklace or bracelet with a clasp; make sure you examine the clasp to see if it is sturdy enough to support the chain, particularly if the piece does not have a hallmark. Run your hand over the chain and look for any rough edges.

#### **10. Can I wear my jewelry everyday?**

Never wear jewelry when you are doing any kind of housework or outside activities. Even though it can be pretty tough and durable, it can still bend and scratch under certain instances. When not in use, it is best to be left in a cloth lined box.

#### **How to care for your gold jewelry**

1. Try and keep it free from dust to give it a fresh look along with wetness, and makeup.
2. Clean your gold with mild soap, warm water, and a toothbrush and then buff with polishing clothing or go to your jewelry expert to have it cleaned and checked every six months.
3. Do not wear jewelry around abrasive chemicals when doing work. Gold is strong but it can get scratched.
4. Your jewelry should be protected by keeping it a cloth lined box or soft cloth.
5. Make sure to check your jewelry every so often for any possible damage or follow the rule of having your jewelry checked about every six months by your jewelry expert.