



# How to Buy an Engagement Ring



# Overwhelmed?

*Fair enough. This is all pretty high stakes! Don't worry, we'll help you sort it, we do this everyday :)*

*Here's a rundown of how this guide will help:*

- How To Pick an Engagement Ring Style
- How To Pick a Stone
- How To Choose the Metal
- Deciding on a Budget
- Finding out a Ring Size
- What if you get it Wrong?

# Our Engagement Ring Philosophy

At Our Wedding, your engagement ring is a unique symbol of your love story. As South Africa's premier guide for bespoke jewellery, we specialize in helping you select or design the perfect ring, tailored to your style and budget.

Founded with a passion for craftsmanship by our expert team, we provide honest, GIA-certified advice on natural and lab-grown diamonds, ensuring ethical sourcing and exceptional quality.

From elegant classics to striking designs, every ring reflects beauty and commitment. Let us guide you to create a timeless piece that celebrates your journey, crafted with care and sustainability in mind.

Rings are meant for life and beyond, we want them to be family treasures that are passed from generation to generation.



# How to Decide on a Style



Choosing your engagement ring style is a joyful step in your love story. Start by reflecting on your partner's personality—do they love timeless elegance or bold modernity? Explore cuts like round, princess, or oval, guided by GIA-certified insights in our guide.

Consider your budget with our tailored tips, balancing metal types (platinum, gold) and settings. Try sketching designs or browsing inspiration online.

Visit local South African jewellers for a hands-on feel, or use our digital tools to visualize styles. Trust your heart, and let this ring reflect your unique bond. Begin your journey with confidence today!



# The Bezel Setting

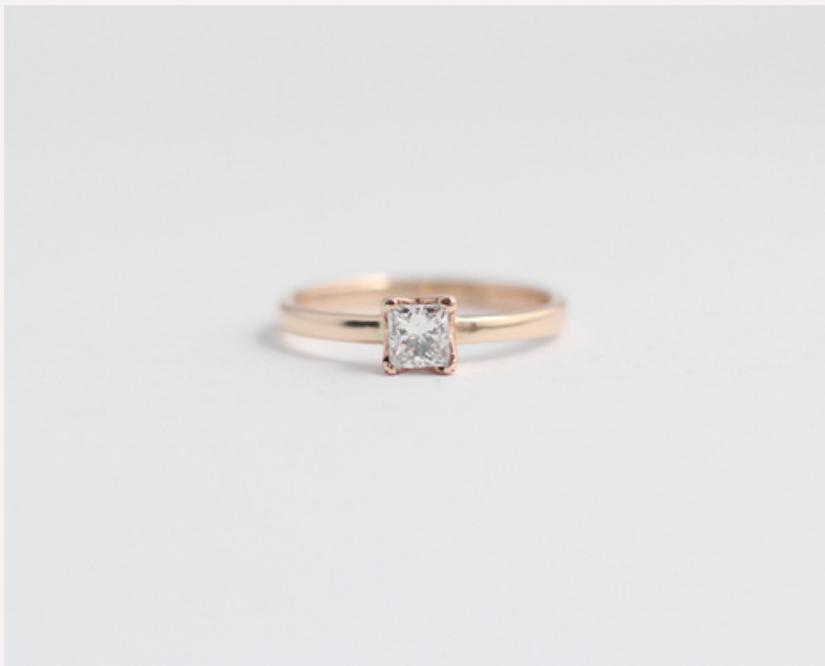
*Everyone loves a bezel setting, especially people that are really outdoorsy or have a job where they work with their hands or have to wear gloves.*

*The bezel setting is low-key, charming but makes a pretty big impact with the right gem.*

*The beauty of the bezel is that it's a super-secure design, so you can feel safe that you won't ever lose your gemstone.*



Bezel set rings can have any shape gemstone and pair fabulously with our wedding bands to make a beautiful set.





# The Claw Setting

This is what everyone thinks of when they think of an engagement ring.

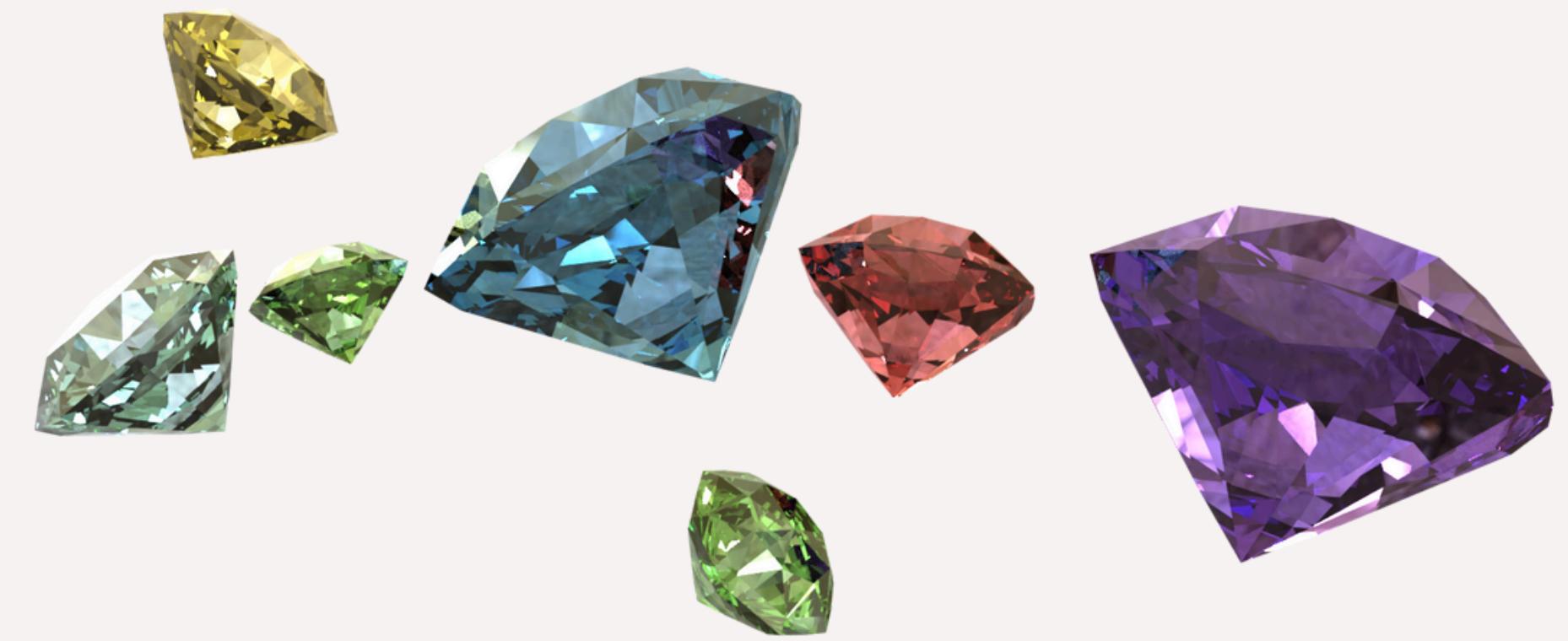
It's classic, timeless and shows off the gemstone like no other setting can.

We make both four and 6-claw settings.

Claw settings do require regular checks to make sure the prongs haven't loosened and aren't practical to wear during some activities.



# How to Pick a Gemstone



Diamonds, sapphires, lab-grown diamonds or coloured gemstone? We'll break down all the pros and cons of each in this section.





# Diamonds

## Pros:

- Almost universally happy-making
- Suits all skin tones
- Standardised grading criteria so you know exactly what you're buying
- The hardest natural substance in the world!

## Cons:

- Pricey!
- Can have dubious origins

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# MAKE SURE YOUR DIAMOND IS

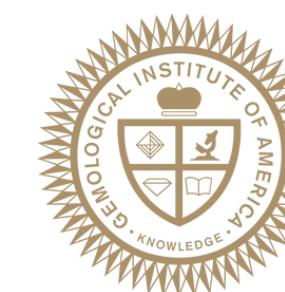


## Ethically Sourced

Ethically sourced diamonds ensure your engagement ring symbolizes love, not harm. Unethical mining often funds conflict, exploits workers, and damages environments, a concern for conscious couples. In South Africa, where diamond trade is significant, choosing GIA-certified natural or lab-grown diamonds supports fair practices and sustainability. These gems are traced to conflict-free origins, protecting communities and ecosystems. Beyond morality, ethical sourcing guarantees quality and peace of mind, letting your ring reflect your values. Our guide helps you select diamonds that shine with integrity, aligning with your budget and style. Choose wisely for a future filled with love and responsibility.

## Graded and Certified

There is an independent grading company in the USA called the GIA as well as EGL South Africa, that grades and certifies the diamonds we use. They are the most well-regarded grading company and are accurate and strict with their grading.



**GIA**  
GEMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA®



# Man-Made Diamonds (Lab-Grown)



## Pros:

- A great economical option
- bang for your buck
- Almost universally happy-making
- Suits all skin tones
- Standardised grading criteria so you know exactly what you're buying
- Have the same characteristics as natural ones.

## Cons:

- Can have dubious origins

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## OUR SOURCED DIAMONDS ARE

### **High Tech Lab-grown**

These diamonds are crafted using cutting-edge technology that mirrors the natural formation process, delivering the same durability and brilliance as mined stones. Lab-grown diamonds represent the latest, most innovative, and eco-friendly alternative to traditional mined diamonds on the market today.

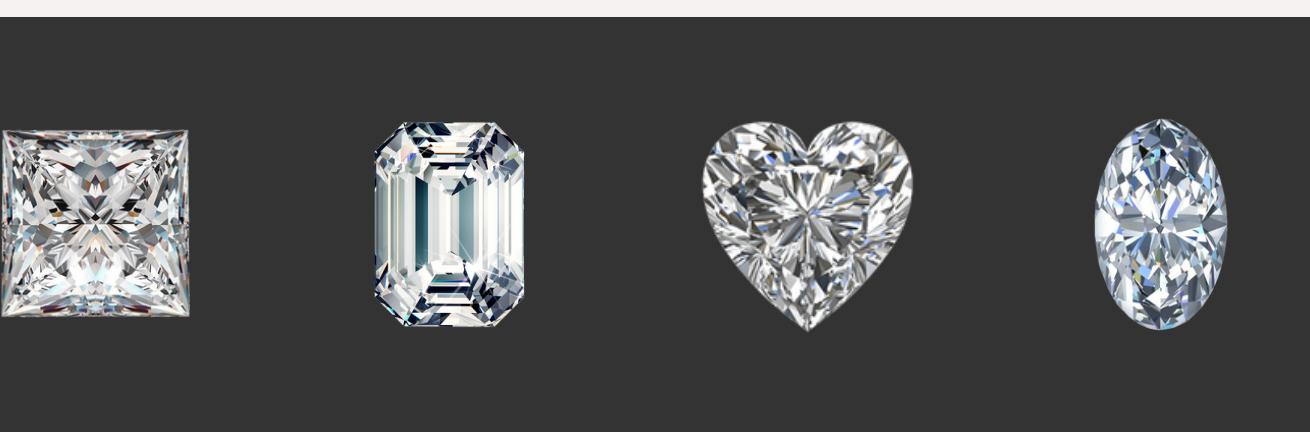
### **Graded and Certified**

Every lab-grown diamond we feature is certified and sourced from suppliers adhering to globally recognized environmental standards, with rigorous oversight of labor conditions and ecological impact. They are graded by the prestigious GIA, a highly respected authority in diamond assessment.

The main drawback is that these stones are cut abroad, and we cannot pinpoint the exact cutting facilities. We're disappointed by this and are actively pushing our suppliers for greater transparency in this aspect of production.

# Selecting your Diamond

If you've chosen a diamond or lab-grown diamond for your cherished ring, it's time to dive into the finer details.



## Diamonds and the 4 C's:

These are the grading characteristics that are used to judge the rarity and quality of diamonds, you can read all about the 4 C's here.

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We prioritize a top-quality cut for every diamond, then tailor the other three Cs—carat, color, and clarity—based on your preferences.

Imagine your budget as a pizza divided into four slices, each representing the 4 Cs. If you enlarge one slice, the others shrink accordingly.

For example, if your priority is a larger stone, we can slightly ease the standards for the other grading factors to accommodate your vision.

**The minimum size diamond we use is usually 3mm for a bezel set and .5ct for a claw setting.**



# Coloured Gemstones

## Pros:

- Comes in a rainbow of fun colour options
- Can be a great economical option



## Cons:

- Some types of coloured gemstones are soft and can damage easily
- Can have sketchy origins



# OUR COLOURED GEMSTONES ARE

*Fair Trade and Responsibly Sourced*

Our coloured gemstones are sourced from ethical suppliers. This statement sums up why we chose to work with them:

Fair Trade Gems are meticulously traced from mine to market, ensuring adherence to rigorous standards. These include safeguarding the environment, upholding fair labor conditions in cutting and jewelry facilities, and maintaining a secure chain of custody to prevent the inclusion of treated gems or synthetics. The initiative also fosters cultural diversity and promotes public education and transparency.

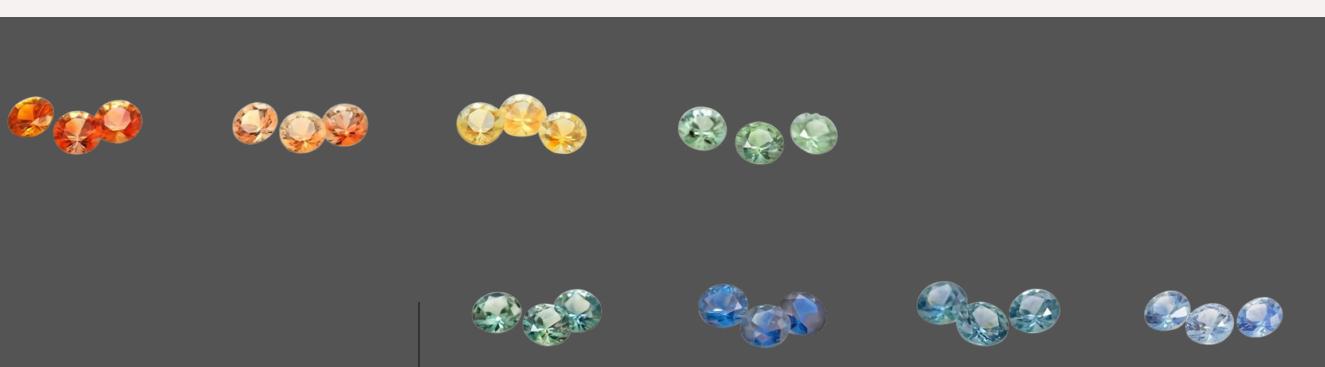
## Sapphires

Sapphires are our preferred choice for coloured gemstones in engagement rings. Similar to diamonds, their durability makes them ideal for both bezel and claw settings. Below, explore examples of the stunning colour options available.



# Selecting your Coloured Gemstone

If you've chosen a coloured gemstone for your cherished ring, the selection process is slightly more straightforward than with a diamond.



Sapphires are our preferred gemstone for engagement rings, and when picking a sapphire, two key factors stand out:

## Colour:

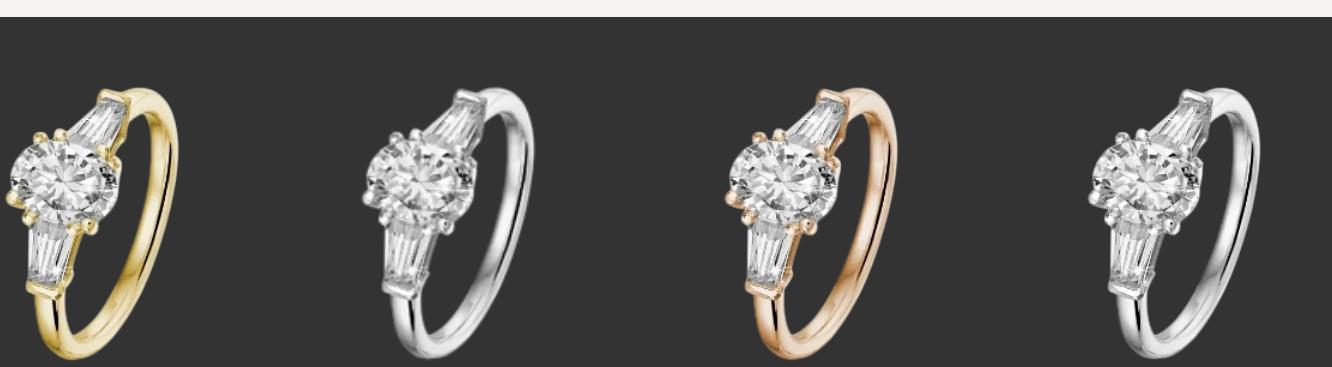
This is entirely a personal choice, but consider how the coloured gemstone pairs with your metal. Should the hues blend harmoniously or stand out boldly, offering a subtle or striking contrast?

## Size:

Typically, our gemstones range from 3mm to 5.5mm in size. The smallest we use is 3mm for bezel settings and 5mm for claw settings.

# Metal Choice

Engagement rings commonly come in platinum as well as yellow, rose & white gold.



When selecting the metal for your engagement ring (beyond the one that brings you the most joy), consider these key factors.

## Colour:

Our metals complement diamonds beautifully. However, with coloured gemstones, it's essential to consider how their hues harmonize or contrast, as noted earlier.

## Durability:

Rest assured, every ring's structure is lifetime-guaranteed, regardless of metal. For gold, we exclusively use 18ct to ensure robust construction and lasting strength.

## Skin Sensitivity:

If skin sensitivity concerns you, white gold and platinum are the safest choices. Sensitivities typically stem from nickel or copper. Our white gold and platinum are nickel- and copper-free, while yellow and rose gold contain copper but no nickel. Should your ring cause irritation, we'll collaborate to find a comfortable alternative.

# Platinum



Platinum stands as the most precious metal we offer, a dense and robust choice with a naturally radiant white sheen.

Platinum excels with its stunning colour and exceptional durability. Rings crafted from platinum years ago remain remarkably pristine compared to other metals, resisting the passage of time beautifully.

However, platinum has drawbacks: its high cost can be a hurdle. Additionally, its single white hue may not suit gold lovers, though 18ct white gold offers a comparable alternative.

# White, Yellow & Rose Gold



## White Gold:

The cool hue of white gold suits those accustomed to silver jewellery. We avoid rhodium plating to preserve the gold's natural shade, though our 18ct white gold leans toward a subtle grey rather than a stark white.



## Yellow Gold:

Yellow gold offers a classic, timeless option for engagement rings.



## Rose Gold:

The warm glow of rose gold complements every skin tone beautifully.

# Deciding on a Budget

Sorry, you're on your own.



# Finding out a Ring Size

Sizing can be challenging, particularly for a surprise. Take comfort in knowing we offer your first free resize if it's not a perfect fit.



## TRYING TO SNEAK A FINGER SIZE TO SURPRISE SOMEONE?

### CHECK AN EXISTING RING.

Start by securing the ring, which might require a bit of discreet planning.

**PLUS!** Ensure it's worn on the same finger as the new ring will be (for engagement and wedding rings, use the left-hand ring finger).

With the ring in hand, it's time to measure it.

### SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM A FRIEND.

Your partner's friends might lend a ring for measuring or already know their size.

### OPT FOR A STANDARD SIZE.

Some jewellers provide free resizing, so if needed, choose a size and take a chance!

The typical women's size is US 6, and men's is US 9.

# What if You Get it Wrong?

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Of course, we're more than happy to work with you to make things right. Since we don't keep diamonds in stock, we prefer not to swap stones too spontaneously.

However, our jeweller can gladly remake the ring using your existing diamond in one of our other standard designs.

As for the diamond itself, our supplier is open to exchanging it for a larger one—but only if it makes sense financially.

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