

# Flitwick Jewellers

## A Guide to Buying Diamonds

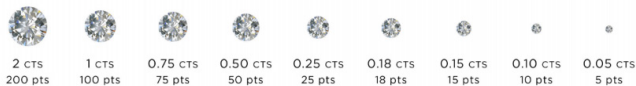
### The 4 C's of diamonds

The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) created a comparison system to classify the rarity, quality and value of different diamonds. This is called the 4 Cs, which stand for carat, clarity, colour and cut.



### 1) Carat

Carat (ct or kt) is a measure of the weight of a diamond. One carat is equivalent to 200 milligrams. One carat can also be divided into 100 "points", so for example a 0.75ct diamond is the same as a 75-point or 3/4 carat diamond.



### 2) Clarity

Clarity refers to the presence of inclusions or imperfections in a diamond.

Inclusions are natural occurring characteristics such as minerals or fractures, which appear while diamonds are formed in the earth. They may look like tiny crystals, clouds or feathers and can reduce the lustre the stone produces when light passes through it.

Many inclusions are invisible to the naked eye and require a closer look under an eyeglass, or "loupe", to be seen. The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) scale starts at F, which means a flawless stone with no inclusions, and goes to I, which means inclusions are visible to the naked eye.

The different grades are:



### 3) Colour

Although most diamonds appear white, many actually display hints of colour barely visible to the naked eye. The closer a diamond is to colourless, the rarer and more valuable it is.

Diamonds are graded on a colour scale established by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), which ranges from D (colourless) to Z.

Diamonds with strong pure colours such as red, blue, pink and yellow are classified separately and are known as "fancies".



### 4) Cut

The cut refers to the angles and proportions of a diamond. The angles on a diamond, known as facets, reflect light back to the eye. The better a stone is cut, the more it will show the unique play of colours, known as fire, within the stone.

Cut also refers to the shape of the stone, such as round, square, pear, or heart, for example.



To find out more, or to let us help you find your dream diamond jewellery.  
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