

Check for hallmark before buying precious metal jewellery

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You should do some 'hallmarking homework' before buying jewellery described as a precious metal, like gold, silver, platinum or palladium. Any such items must have a hallmark to guarantee its authenticity.

Hallmarks

Jewellers must display a hallmarking notice which shows what markings should be on the jewellery. You should use this notice to check for hallmarks.

Hallmarks are often very small and an eyeglass will be required to see them. Don't be afraid to ask the jeweller to provide you with one.

This could help to make sure that you avoid the disappointment and potential embarrassment of buying jewellery that has not been accurately described or has a counterfeit hallmark.

Take time when buying something that expensive – don't feel under pressure. Buying a ring without a hallmark may mean that you are not getting what you pay for.

Jewellers must also display prices for jewellery on sale. You should be able to see how much an item costs without seeking help. The only exemptions to this are any items of jewellery, precious metal, or watches displayed in a jeweller's window with a selling price of more than £3,000.

Report un-hallmarked jewellery

If you are aware of un-hallmarked jewellery being offered for sale you should [report it to Consumerline online](#) or by phone on 0300 600 62 62.

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