

14K Gold: Everything You Need To Know

Fascinated by gold? Find out all about 14 karat gold and why it's a great investment.

We've got a (gold) mine of information here, and it will tell you everything you need to know about this precious glittering metal.

What is 14K Gold?

Gold's purity (or fineness) is measured in Karats or parts fine per 24 parts whole. Therefore 24K gold would be pure, 18K would be less pure and 14K even less so. While this might sound like a negative, pure gold is soft and scratches easily and therefore most gold used in high-end jewelry comes in at between 10K and 18K or (41% – 75%) purity.

In the case of 18K gold, for example, the remaining 25% will be made up of another metal such as silver, palladium, zinc, copper or nickel depending on its desired hue and intended purpose.

14K gold is therefore simply a gold alloy at 58% purity. The remaining 42% will determine the gold's colour and hardness. While both silver and palladium will result in a white gold, a gold-silver alloy will produce a strong, durable metal whilst a gold-palladium alloy will be malleable.

If the jeweller wants to produce a gold that looks yellow, he or she will use a mixture of silver and copper to produce the desired hue.

What are the Properties of 14K Gold (Purity, Durability, Shine)?

As discussed above, 14K gold has a ratio of 58% gold to 42% alloy. If it's a yellow gold, the alloy will be a mixture of silver and copper, but other colours of gold use other metals.

14K gold is the metal most commonly used for wedding and engagement rings. This is because the jewelry is meant to last a lifetime. A ring with a larger gold to alloy ratio will be more susceptible to wear and tear, and will have to be actively maintained to prevent it from becoming misshapen.

Due to its durability, 14K gold maintains its shine for many years. The silver content means it may tarnish over time, but it can be washed and polished at home with a little bit of warm water, dish soap and vinegar.

Is 14K Gold Real Gold?

Yes, 14K gold contains real gold. It's not pure gold, but that shouldn't come as a surprise as pure gold has very little use before being smelted with other metals.

How To Tell If Gold Is 14K Gold

It's mandatory for goldsmiths to stamp their pieces with a number that indicates the gold's purity. If you're not sure whether your gold is 14K, give the object a close inspection and you should find a small "14K" engraved somewhere on its surface. If the piece is old and it's difficult to tell, take it to a trustworthy jeweller for further inspection.

Is 14K Gold Worth Anything?

Definitely!

While it's not the most expensive gold out there, 14K gold is still valuable as it contains real gold. The value of a piece is also dependent on its history, condition and composition. It's harder to resell gold items that contain elements like cadmium and nickel as we now know these metals to be toxic.

Is 14K Gold Pawnable?

14K gold is definitely pawnable, but make sure you're selling it to a respected and well-known dealer. "Cash for Gold" stores are notoriously unscrupulous, so keep your wits about you and make sure to get more than one opinion before you get pennies for your grandma's precious gold.

How Does 14K Gold Compare To 24k Gold?

24K gold is pure gold – so it's far more valuable. However, it's very rare to find jewelry crafted from 100% pure gold as it's very soft and easily damaged. So while there may be a large difference in price, there's also a large difference in practicality. As discussed above, most wedding rings are made from 14K gold as it's long-lasting and maintains its shape through the years.

When Should You Choose 14K Gold?

If it's a long-lasting shine, durability and easy maintenance you're after, you should definitely choose 14K gold. 14K gold is a good choice for 50th anniversaries, wedding bands, engagement rings and investments you want to keep in the family for years to come.

So when you're at the jewellers, keep these questions in mind: How long must it last? Who is it for – are they someone who works from home or someone who spends a lot of time outdoors? Would a purer gold be better suited for the occasion?

How Long Does 14K Gold Last & Will it Fade, Tarnish or Scratch?

14K gold will last a long, long time. The silver and copper in the alloy strengthen the metal's structural integrity which means it's unlikely to lose its shape or scratch. It definitely won't fade, as the amount of gold present will stave off tarnishing for years. The higher karat a piece, the less likely it will be to tarnish.

That being said, you might see some tarnishing after many years – but it's nothing you can't take care of at home.

How to Clean 14K Gold

Cleaning 14K gold is easily done at home! Let's walk through the basic steps so that you know how to clean gold jewelry properly:

- Prepare a basin of warm water
- Add a few drops of green dish soap
- Add a small amount of an ammonia-based cleaner
- Use a small toothbrush to gently scrub at the jewelry, but be careful to use a soft-bristled brush (preferably one meant for an infant) as a harsh scrubbing could leave scratches.
- Use some white vinegar and a paper towel and gently polish the piece once it's dry to leave a lovely shine.
- Wipe down with a clean paper towel and leave to air dry.

Is 14K Gold Jewelry a Good Investment?

14K gold jewelry is an excellent investment. It's hard-wearing, easily maintainable and unlikely to depreciate in value over time. If you're buying gold as an investment, you want something that will stand the test of time and maybe find itself in the hands of a grandchild or great grandchild somewhere down the line.

14K gold is therefore the perfect choice for you as it'll maintain its shape and its shine for generations!

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Last updated on August 7th, 2022 at 10:04 am

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Do you like wearing rings?

If yes, are you wearing one right now?

Why not give the ring a closer look and tell us what you see.

- Are there are scratches on it?
- Does the ring look dull?
- Has it lost some of its shine?
- Is there a thin white film on and underneath it?

If you see all these signs, you, my friend, haven't been taking good care of your gold ring!

You have heard that pure gold does not tarnish. So, by now, you are probably wondering if you are wearing a fake gold ring or not.

Well, don't worry because we are 99% sure that your ring is not a knockoff. However, it is possible you were scammed into buying a 10K gold ring when you asked for 14K.

Now that you know gold is susceptible to tarnishing, let's look at the matter in detail to determine why:

To see some of the most popular gold jewelry just click [here](#).



Is Gold Jewelry Made of 100% Pure Gold?

No!

A gold ring does contain pure gold, but it also has different metals that give the jewelry strength. This mixture prevents it from bending and breaking. When it comes to 24K gold, it does not contain any types of alloys.

Below are the reasons why jewelry is not made with 24K gold:

- It's Extremely Soft: Pure gold warps and bends easily in 24K form, which makes it a poor metal for jewelry. Since it does not retain its shape, it scratches easily. It becomes unattractive and scuffed quickly.
- It's Very Bright: Pure gold has a sharp yellowish-orange color, which does not make it a pleasing for jewelry or watches.
- It's Extremely Expensive: Since we are talking about pure gold and 0% alloys, 24K jewelry is extremely expensive. Not only is the metal expensive but the labor too. Since the gold is soft, it takes a lot of time to shape into a form.

The only thing pure gold is good for is investment. Since the price of gold keeps rising and will continue to, you can exchange it for cash for an emergency.



Gold jewelry is made by mixing pure gold and alloys. Since pure gold is very soft, it needs to be mixed with other metals to produce strong jewelry. The following chart lists the purity of gold:

Gold Karat (K)	Fraction of Gold	Gold Purity (%)	Millesimal
9K	9/24	37.5%	375
10K	10/24	41.7%	417
12K	11/24	50%	500
14K	12/24	58.3%	583
18K	18/24	75%	750
22K	22/24	91.7%	917
24K	24/24	99.9%	999

As you can see, 24K is the purest form of gold. It is rare to find 24K jewelry, and jewelers seldom make it because it is malleable. 14K gold falls in the middle of the chart is preferred by many people. It contains the perfect ratio of pure gold and alloys, making it strong. However, this gold-alloy ratio does not stop 14K gold from tarnishing.

Keep in mind: The higher the gold content in the ring, the less it will tarnish. Based on this, the only gold jewelry that does not tarnish or get scratched is 22K and 24K.

Gold usually tarnishes when it is exposed to moisture and air. This oxidizes the alloys, which changes the look of the jewelry. This change is often referred to as patina. This gives the jewelry an aged look, which many people like. Others want to remove it and restore the original shine of their jewelry.



10K vs. 14K vs. 18K Gold

10K Gold

- Advantages: More durable than other gold types and very affordable.
- Disadvantages: Has a pale yellow color and can trigger metal allergies.

Jewelry made of 10K gold is very durable compared to other types of gold jewelry. It contains more than 50% alloys, which gives it strength. Technically, 10K gold is legally called gold, but you won't find it in the displays of high-end jewelers.

Aesthetically, 10K gold looks pale, which some people like and others don't. Though 10K gold is durable, it's not a big enough advantage to negate that it can cause allergies. If you are allergic to zinc, iron, nickel, copper, or silver, we suggest you don't buy 10K gold jewelry.

14K Gold

- Advantages: It is durable, has the perfect ratio of pure gold, and offers great value for money.
- Disadvantages: Expensive.

14K gold jewelry has more pure gold than alloys. This gold type is mostly used to make engagement rings. Jewelry made from 14K gold has a pleasing and rich color. Its classic look makes it a better choice than 18K gold. Compared to 18K gold, it is more affordable and less susceptible to tarnishing.

18K Gold

- Advantages: Looks great and is still a good option for jewelry compared to 22K and 24K gold.
- Disadvantages: Scratches easily and is more expensive than 14K gold.

The 75% ratio of pure gold in 18K gold jewelry makes it an expensive option. It has a richer yellow shade than 14K gold, which is pleasing to the eye. It's not too bright but if you like a little bling, you should go with this gold.

However, 18K gold is not acceptable for everyday wear as it gets scratched easily. Though its shine does not fade away underwater, a minor mishap in the bathroom can completely change your ring's look.

Conclusion

14K gold jewelry is susceptible to tarnishing because it contains a mixture of multiple alloys. Compared to 18K gold, it will last longer and maintain its appearance. Since 18K gold has a higher ratio of pure gold in it, it will bend easily. As for 10K gold, it is mostly used for imitation jewelry and can cause allergies, which does not make it a great option for engagement rings.

So, if you are planning to buy pure gold jewelry and you have a high budget, we suggest that you choose between 14K and 18K gold.

What is 14k Gold — Abbot & Rinehart Jewelers

What is 14K gold? What does 14K mean? Why 14? That seems like an odd number doesn't it?

We take a look at all of these questions in this post to try and help our customers better understand what 14k gold is and make their next jewelry purchase an educated one.

14K gold is simply a descriptive number for how much pure gold content is in a piece of jewelry or alloyed gold. Pure gold is much too soft to be worn as jewelry on a daily basis, it's very soft for a metal and easy to bend, scratch, or ding. A pure gold, or even 22K, simple band could easily be bent with a strong hand and applied pressure. So to offset this, jewelers alloy pure gold with other metals like copper, zinc, silver, and nickel to beef up its strength, lend some durability, and produce some truly beautiful gold colors like: white, rose gold, black gold, and even green gold, depending upon the alloy mixture.

What does 14K mean?

14K refers to a piece of jewelry's karat, or how many parts per 24 (100% pure gold) a particular piece has. It indicates gold metal purity. It's an easy way to show customers that the piece of jewelry is comprised of 58% pure gold and 42% alloyed metals.

Example: $14 / 24 = 0.583$ or 58% gold. $18 / 24 = 0.75$ or 75% gold. $22 / 24 = 0.916$ or 91% gold.

PRO TIP This formula can be applied to any karat of gold, so if you ever run across an odd karat like 9K, or 16K, just remember - Divide the Karat number by 24 (pure or 100%) and voila! You have the percentage of gold.

Sometimes jewelry is even marked by its percentage instead of its karat. You might see 585 instead of 14K or 750 instead of 18K. For quick reference we provided all of the standard markings for gold below. These are usually found stamped somewhere on a piece of jewelry.

- 9K or 375
- 10K or 416
- 14K or 583/585
- 18K or 750
- 21K or 875
- 22K or 916

Which one is better?

We get asked this A LOT, and for good reason. It can be confusing and hard to make a decision when faced with all of these numbers, but it boils down to personal preference. What do you like about a particular karat? What sort of durability do you expect from your jewelry? Do you prefer luxury over strength? Does one karat's color appeal to you more? Some alloy colors, like white gold, aren't even available in certain karat weights above 18K because the amount of pure yellow gold is too high, making it very difficult or impossible to turn white in color.

Here's a quick breakdown of each karat weight's attributes, pros, and cons:

- 9K Gold - More common in Europe (English & Russian influenced countries in particular) than in the United States. 9K gold is very strong and durable with a slightly reddish tint due to the high amounts of copper. It's beloved by antique and vintage jewelry collectors for its rarity and the part it played in both World Wars. Gold was so scarce and funds were so tight that 9K was much more readily available to the general populace. It has a low gold content compared to its cousins, but usually fetches a slightly premium price due to its rarity.
- 10K Gold - The workin' man's gold. 10K is also very strong and durable (the less gold, the stronger the alloy is) and sits at a very reasonable price point. It looks very nice in white, yellow, and rose gold finishes. It has a slightly higher gold content than 9K, but is still considered a low gold content alloy.

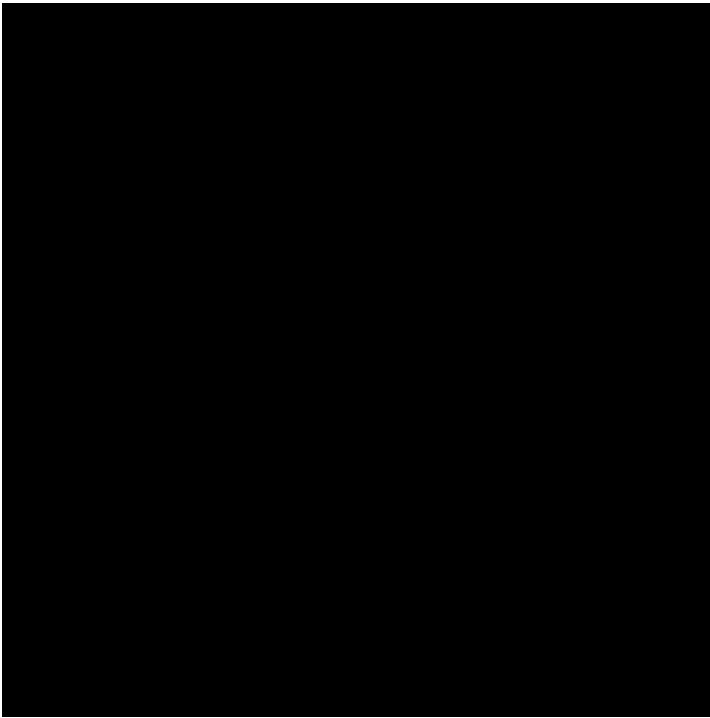
Doing this creates a version of solid gold that is not only harder, stronger, and more durable but also gold in a lighter color.

In the case of white gold, the white metals used to dilute the intensity of the yellow gold, leaving you with an off-white version of gold. Of course, the intensity of the resultant color depends on the percentage of gold incorporated in the alloy. So, in the case of 14k white gold, pure gold makes up 14 parts of the solid gold, and the remaining 10 parts are made of white metals like silver, palladium, silver, and in other cases, zinc or nickel – this translates to 58.3% pure gold and 41.7% metal alloys.

But the creation of white gold doesn't stop here, especially because even with the alloying of pure gold with white metals, you'd still find that the resultant color is more yellow than that nice lustrous white that white gold is known for.

The reason for this is that after the alloying, the resultant 'white gold' is coated in the lustrous white metal. Rhodium is a precious metal that belongs in the same metal family as platinum. Besides adding color, rhodium plating enhances the durability and the strength of the white gold, leaving you with jewelry boasting the most lustrous white sheen.

The 14k gold making process



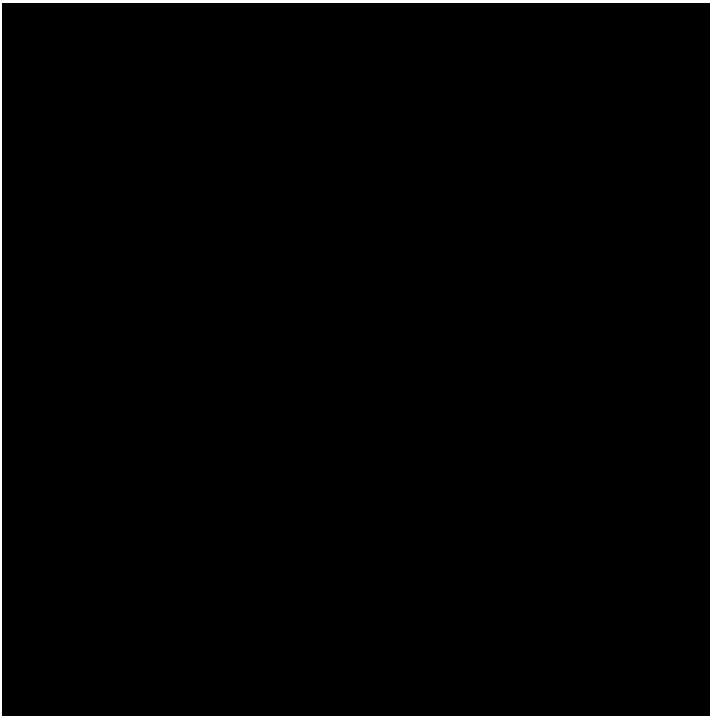
The creation of white gold, whether 14k white gold, rose gold, or yellow gold, results from the blending of 58.3% pure gold and 41.7% other metal alloys. (we make a full gold alloy mixing ratio table, read more here!

To create the different types of 14k gold, different metals are mixed with the 14parts of pure gold, but in different proportions.

More copper mixed with gold and other metals give you 14k gold, more silver, and a small amount of copper leaves you with yellow gold and more silver/ white metals, and no copper plus rhodium plating results in white gold.

The Mohs Scale of 14K gold

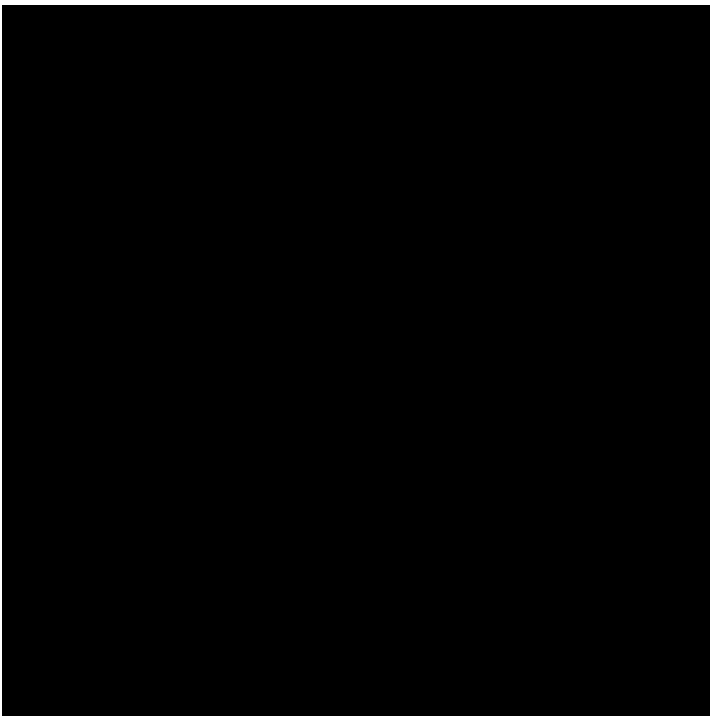
14k gold has a hardness level of between 3 and 4 on the Mohs scale, which means that it's harder than pure gold, which scores 2.5 on the Mohs scale.



Despite the higher percentage of metal alloys like copper, silver, palladium, zinc, etc., all metals intended to harden the gold, the hardness of 14k gold is not that high, and it's incomparable with the hardness of pure copper, platinum, etc.

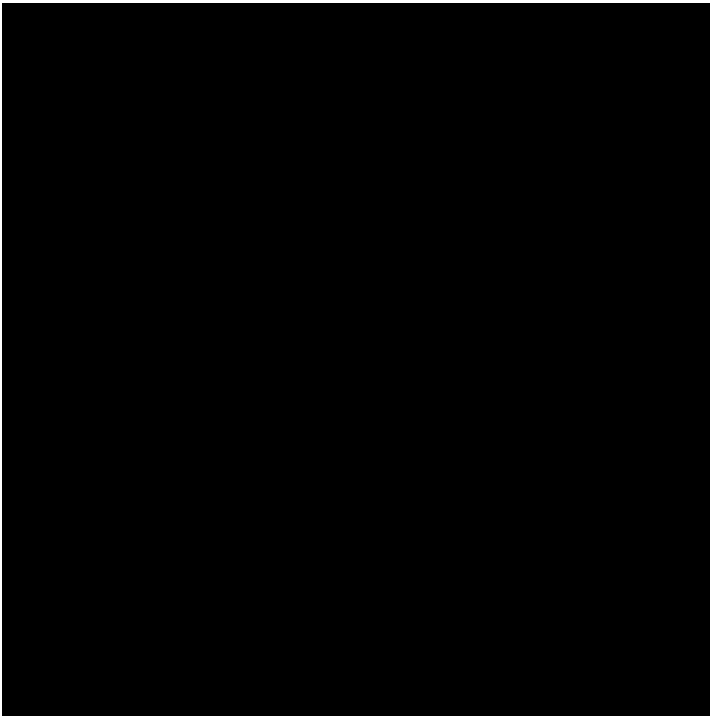
The softness from the gold means that the 14k gold would still get scratched by other metals that are harder than 14k gold, for example, 10k gold or titanium. 14K gold isn't 100% resistant to scratching, scuffing, or bending.

However, 14k gold is comparably harder than 18k gold, 22k, or 24k gold, thanks to the alloying process, which introduces a large percentage of harder metals to the 14 parts of pure gold, leaving you with a relatively hard and durable version of gold.



Tips for protecting your 14K jewelry (How to avoid scratching)

- Be mindful of the jewelry whenever you have it on, especially if you have to stack it with other kinds of jewelry, especially the ones made of harder metals
- Remove the jewelry when engaging in high-contact activities like working out or sports
- Don't expose the jewelry to chlorine, so don't go swimming with your 14k gold ring. Note that chlorine will weaken the structure of gold, and the ring will eventually break if it's exposed to chlorine over time
- Remove your jewelry or cover it when cleaning
- Always wear your jewelry last when you're getting ready, and take off the jewelry off first.
- Take off your 14k jewelry before you hop in the shower and when bathing
- Don't go swimming in the ocean/ sea with the jewelry
- Don't expose the jewelry to direct sunlight
- Avoid keeping the ring or bracelet on when in contact with cold water



Conclusion

14K gold scratches, but at a comparably slower rate than the other high-value version of gold, like 18k gold.

Follow the precautions above to ensure the protection of the 14k gold jewelry always. Read more jewelry metal-related posts [here](#) or [here](#)!



Tiger is a fashion&jewelry lover. He is also a fashion jewelry manufacturer that help thousands of small business to grow and also do business with some big fashion jewelry brands. He is a truly metal expert and he will share some information you are looking for.

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Last updated on August 26th, 2022 at 05:42 am

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Are you thinking of buying some white gold jewelry or have recently acquired some and aren't sure if it easily bends or not? The answer to your question depends on the kind of white gold used in the jewelry and how well you take care of it.

Read ahead to find out all about white gold, if white gold jewelry will bend easily, what you should do if your jewelry does end up getting bent, and how to avoid bending it in the future.

To see the most popular white gold jewelry just [click here](#).



Is White Gold Malleable?

Did you know that white gold is not made from pure gold? It is an alloy made of pure gold mixed with durable metal like nickel, zinc, copper, palladium, or manganese. This is because pure gold is a very soft metal and is too malleable. Because it is so soft and can easily be bent out of place, it cannot be made into jewelry easily. It has to be mixed in with harder metals to be formed into jewelry that will hold its shape.

Have you found yourself wondering just how careful you need to be while wearing white gold jewelry? You wouldn't want to wear it roughly and risk bending it out of shape. The answer to whether or not white gold jewelry bends easily depends on the quantity of pure gold in the alloy.

White gold usually comes in three industry standards: 10 karats white gold, 14 karats white gold, and 18 karats white gold. 10k white gold is 41.7% pure gold and 58.3% metal alloy, 14k white gold is 58.3% white gold and 41.7% metal alloy, and 18k white gold is 75% pure gold and 25% metal alloy.

The more metal alloy there is than pure gold in the jewelry, the less easily the white gold jewelry will bend. This means that higher karat white gold, which is more valuable, is actually more easily bent, breaks and wears more quickly, and is less durable. This is why purer white gold jewelry should be worn and stored very carefully.



Does the Rhodium Plating Prevent White Gold from Bending?

White gold is not actually white but slightly yellowish. White gold has to be plated in a thin rhodium coating to give it that platinum-like bright white appearance. Rhodium is a reflective, bright white metal that is quite rare and precious. It is also very hard and durable. Rhodium does not scratch easily, tarnish, wear down, corrode, or oxidize.

So, in addition to making the white gold appear more white, rhodium coating can also make the white gold strong and more durable and prevent it from bending. However, one thing to remember is that because rhodium is so precious and rare, the coating on white gold jewelry is very thin. This means that it wears off over time and only strengthens the jewelry for a short period. If you get the jewelry replated whenever the coating has worn off, you can prevent it from bending easily.

What Should You Do If Your White Gold Ring gets Bent?

White gold is a very popular choice for wedding bands and other rings. When you first get your ring from the jewelry store, it will likely be bright, shiny, and perfectly in shape. However, after some time of wearing the ring, you might notice that it has changed shape a bit. This is because, as discussed, white gold jewelry can sometimes bend and lose its original shape.

So, what should you do if your white gold ring has become bent out of shape? The answer is simple, just take it to the jewelry store and ask the jeweler to bend it back into shape. Because white gold is easily bent, it can also easily be bent back into its original shape.

The jeweler will likely place the ring onto a mandrel, a cone-shaped rod, and then press the ring back into a round shape. If the ring is a simple band, this is a relatively quick and easy process. The process becomes more difficult if the ring has become too thin in certain places or encrusted with gemstones.

If it has been bent and become too thin, the ring might be at risk of breaking in the future. It will have to be recast to prevent this, which is a more expensive process. If the ring has gemstones in it, reshaping it while avoiding damaging it is a difficult process and will also be much more expensive to reshape.



How to Avoid Bending Your White Gold Ring

The easiest way to avoid bending your white gold ring is by being careful when you wear it and avoiding doing any intense work while you wear it to prevent putting too much pressure on it. When you aren't wearing the ring, keep it safely in a jewelry box or any other designated spot. This will help prevent the ring from falling or coming in contact with other things that could damage the ring or bend it out of shape.

Additionally, you could opt for getting a white gold ring that is 10k or 14k so that it is stronger and more durable. You can also ensure that you get the ring replated in rhodium as soon as you notice the plating wearing off.

Conclusion

If you've been wondering does white gold bend easily, the answer is yes. White gold can bend depending on how many karats it is, whether it has a strong rhodium plating, how careful you are while wearing it, and how much wear and tear it faces.

If you take care of your white gold jewelry and do not do any intensive work while wearing it, you likely won't have to worry about bending it out of shape. And even if it does bend a bit, the good news is that a professional jeweler can fix it.