

Lab-Grown vs Natural Diamonds: Which One Suits You?

Natural and lab-grown diamonds are both popular choices for jewelry. There are many similarities between the two, but there are also significant differences when it comes to rarity and value. Discover which is best for telling your story.

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SHOP LAB-GROWN DIAMONDS

Diamonds are the only gemstone made of just one element – pure carbon. Perfect for [engagement rings](#), [necklaces](#), [earrings](#), and everything in between, these timeless gemstones have been exclusively earth made creations until recent years.

With the help of changing technologies, lab-grown diamonds have found their way into [rings](#) and other jewelry designs. Lab-grown diamonds different from natural ones and which option is best for their jewelry purchase.

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Just as natural diamonds, lab-grown diamonds are vastly different when it comes to value. Generally, the best choice is the one that matches your priorities, but it's key to compare lab-grown and natural diamonds to help you find your fit.





Are Lab-Grown Diamonds Real?

A natural diamond is a marvel millions – and often billions – of years in the making. A lab-grown diamond is made in just a few weeks here above ground in laboratories and production facilities. Though both have the same chemical, optical and physical properties, **a lab-grown diamond is not the same as a natural diamond when it comes to formation, rarity or value.**

This is why **lab-grown diamonds are always referred to as lab-created, lab-grown, manmade, or other terms to highlight that they're created rather than naturally formed** like earth made diamonds.

Lab-Created Diamonds vs Natural Diamonds: Creation

The creation of these gemstones is the biggest difference between natural and lab-grown diamonds.

Lab-grown diamonds are created in controlled laboratory settings, typically through High Pressure High Temperature (HPHT) or Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD) methods. In these methods, a lab-grown diamond is created over the course of several weeks. Both processes are popular for growing lab-made diamonds quickly and reliably. Today's technologies allow for the creation of jewelry-quality lab-grown diamonds in various shapes, sizes and even colors.

Natural diamonds, on the other hand, were created deep in the earth over millions and often billions of years. Perfect conditions were required for these gemstones to develop naturally beneath the earth's surface, separating ordinary carbon from rare crystal to naturally create diamonds. Incredible heat, pressure, time, and the right combination of elements made diamonds deep within the earth. Then, they were brought closer to the surface by equally rare volcanic eruptions. The natural diamonds found in fine jewelry are magical marvels of chance, uniqueness and beauty .



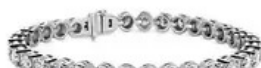
Lab-Grown Diamonds vs Natural Diamonds: Rarity

Both natural and lab-grown diamonds offer beauty, brilliance and style. But these gemstones are vastly different when it comes to rarity. Jewelry-quality natural diamonds are much rarer than lab-grown diamonds of the same qualities.

Natural vs Lab-Grown Diamonds: Cost and Value

Lab-made diamonds are produced at scale, meaning their value is not tied to their rarity as they can be made limitlessly. This gives lab-created diamonds a much lower price tag than natural ones, but they also do not retain their value like most natural diamonds do.

Because lab-created diamonds can be produced in abundance, they are less expensive and make larger size diamonds more affordable. Their relative abundance may not ensure that they will hold value over time.



Lab-Made Diamonds vs Natural Diamonds: Appearance

To the unaided eye, there are **no major visual differences between natural and lab-grown diamonds**. They're both beautiful, sparkling additions to jewelry. But expert jewelers can often tell the difference between the two types of diamonds using advanced instrumentation. Lab-grown diamonds often grow too quickly, resulting in subtle signs you won't find in natural diamonds.

Choosing Between Natural and Lab-Grown Diamonds

When it comes to picking a natural diamond or a lab-grown diamond, it's all about what's most important to you or the jewelry wearer if the purchase is a gift. Many people love the rarity and uniqueness of natural diamonds, while others are more focused on the price differences of lab-grown diamonds.

Ultimately, the "best" diamond is the one that matches the priorities of the jewelry wearer. **Choose the diamond that represents your story and what matters most to you or your loved one.**

FAQs About Lab-Grown vs Natural Diamonds

Are lab-created diamonds the same natural diamonds?	+
What are the differences between lab-made diamonds and natural diamonds?	+
How can you tell the difference between lab-created diamonds vs natural diamonds?	+
Which is better, lab-grown diamonds or natural diamonds?	+
Are natural diamonds more expensive than lab-grown diamonds?	+
Do both kinds of diamonds look the same?	+
Is a natural diamond better for an engagement ring?	+
Are lab-grown diamonds a bad choice?	+
Who sells conflict free diamonds?	+

Explore Education by Category

Gemstone Buying Guide

Amethyst

Aquamarine

Blue Topaz

Gemstone Characteristics

Clarity

Color

Cut

Gemstone Engagement Ring Guide

Amethyst Engagement Rings

Aquamarine Engagement Rings

Emerald Engagement Rings

Gemstones vs Diamond Engagement Rings

Blue Topaz vs Diamond

Emerald vs Diamond

Moissanite vs Diamond

Emerald	Enhancement	Moonstone Engagement Rings	Pearl vs Diamond
Garnet	Size or Carat	Morganite Engagement Rings	Ruby vs Diamond
Moonstone		Opal Engagement Rings	Sapphire vs Diamond
Morganite		Pink Sapphire Engagement Rings	Moissanite vs Lab Diamond
Opal		Ruby Engagement Rings	
Peridot		Sapphire Engagement Rings	
Ruby		Tanzanite Engagement Rings	
Sapphire		Topaz Engagement Rings	
Tanzanite		All Gemstone Engagement Ring Guides	
All Gemstone Buying Guides			
Gemstone Meaning	Pearl Buying Guide	Birthstones	Care and Cleaning
Gemstones and Their Meanings	Akoya Pearls	January - Garnet	Diamond Care
Good Luck Gemstones Guide	Freshwater Pearls	February - Amethyst	Gemstone Care
Zodiac Gemstones: What Gemstones Say About You	South Sea Pearls	March - Aquamarine	
	Tahitian Pearls	April - Diamond	
	All Pearl Buying Guides	May - Emerald	
		June - Pearl	
		July - Ruby	
		August - Peridot	
		September - Sapphire	
		October - Opal	
		November - Citrine	
		December - Blue Topaz	
		All Birthstones & Their Meanings	
Diamond Education and Guidance	Jewelry Education	Ring Education	Metal Education
4c - Carat	Bracelets	Engagement Ring Guide	Cobalt
4c - Clarity	Earrings	Ring Size Guide	Gold
4c - Color	Necklaces	Men's Wedding Rings	Platinum
4c - Cut	All Jewelry Education	Wedding Ring Guide	Silver
		Wedding Ring Styles	Tantalum
Astor by Blue Nile™ Diamonds			

Buying Guide	All Ring Education	Titanium
Certification		Tungsten
Colored Diamonds		All Metal Education
Lab-Grown Diamonds		
Shape		
Shape vs. Price		
All Diamond Education and Guidance		

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