Precious Metals / Jewellery Guide

GOLD Purity Marks



9ct = '375' (37.5% Pure Gold) or 9K
10ct = '417' (41.7% Pure Gold) or 10K
14ct = '585' (58.5% Pure Gold) or 14K
18ct = '750' (75.0% Pure Gold) or 18K
22ct = '916' (91.6% Pure Gold) or 22K
24ct = '999' (99.9% Pure Gold) or 24K

RG = Rolled Gold (Thick Gold Plate) e.g. 9ct RG
GP = Gold Plated (Standard Gold Plate) e.g. 9ct GP

SILVER Purity Marks



'800' = (80% Pure Silver)
'900' = (90% Pure Silver)
'925' = (92.5% Pure Silver) "Sterling"
'958' = (95.8% Pure Silver) "Britannia"
'999' = (99.9% Pure Silver)
SP = Silver Plated
EPNS = Electro Plated Nickel Silver

Some vintage or continental solid silver may be marked as **'Silver'** or **'Sterling'** only.

Sterling Silver & Britannia Silver Marks





Unfortunately the market is flooded with counterfeit gold and silver items. Here are some tips to check for fakes!

- **Use a magnet –** Gold and silver is **not** magnetic, so using a magnet can quickly uncover a fake. Counterfeiters will often use gold or silver plate over a cheap magnetic base metal. **To Note: Most necklace clasps will be magnetic, even on real gold and silver items.**



- **Check for green oxidisation -** Green marks are a sure sign that there is a cheap base metal used under any gold plating.



- **Weigh the gold -** Gold is a very dense metal, so it will be heavier than it looks. Use a digital scale to determine the exact weight of the gold.

- **Check the colour –** Most fake gold items will appear deeper/richer in colour than the carat they are stamped as. E.g. 9ct gold should be a weaker gold colour than 22ct. Most fake silver items will appear too bright/shiny. Silver naturally oxidises, so black marks are usually a good sign!

- **Check for plate wear –** Most wearable plated items will wear down from use and show the base metal underneath. A quick way of spotting fake solid gold or silver items.

- **Check the quality –** If the quality of the item seems poor, then it might be a fake. Gold is an expensive material, so products tend to be created with care.

How To List Precious Metals On eBay?

Here is a quick guide on how to list your gold and silver.

- **Photographs –** Detailed pictures of hallmarks are a must. This can be achieved by having the item in focus on screen and then zooming in on the markings. (Don't physically move the device too close to the object, as this

will put the image out of focus) **TIP: Use the cropping function on eBay to zoom in even further.**



- **Purity –** What purity is the gold or silver? E.g. 9ct gold or 925 silver?

- **Size –** What is the size of the item? E.g. Length of the necklace, or UK size of a ring?



- **Weight –** Using an accurate digital set of scales, what is the exact weight in grams?

- **Extra Info –** Not a necessity, but researching the hallmarks will reveal the items maker, age and location of production.

You can always contact the EACH eBay team on 01842 777103 for more help :)