

# COLOUR

A diamond's colour refers to the presence or absence of colour, and the evaluation of most gem-quality diamonds is based on the lack of colour.

The **D-to-Z** diamond colour-grading system measures the degree of colourlessness by comparing a stone under controlled lighting and precise viewing conditions to master stones - which are stones of established colour value.

- ❖ A colour grade of D is the highest possible, with Z being the lowest.

A chemically pure and structurally perfect diamond has no hue, like a drop of pure water, thus consequently a higher value.

- ❖ Colour manifests itself in a diamond as yellow or brown.
- ❖ The less colour a diamond has, the higher its colour grade and its value.
- ❖ The colour distinctions in the upper part of the scale are so subtle that they are invisible to the untrained eye. However, these distinctions make a very big difference in diamond quality and price.

- ❖ Diamonds graded G through I show virtually no color face up, that is visible to the untrained eye.
- ❖ If you're setting in yellow gold you can achieve great value by selecting lower colour grades like K-M.

Gem-quality diamonds occur in almost any colour of the rainbow - yellow, pink, orange, red, blue and green. These are known as fancy colours and their colour grading is different from colourless diamonds.






- ❖ There is a general agreement in the international trade that fancy-colour diamonds are either yellow or brown diamonds which have more colour than the Z master stone, or they exhibit a colour other than yellow or brown.

**Fancy colour** diamonds are an especially rare, natural phenomenon of nature. Only one in every 10,000 diamonds possess natural colour, and these are what are referred to as a fancy colour diamond.

For this reason, fancy colour diamonds are purchased almost exclusively for the intensity and distribution of the diamond's colour.

Colour intensity and the depth or richness of colour is the most important consideration when purchasing a fancy colour diamond. The more intense the colour, the more rare and valuable a diamond will be.

Fancy colour diamonds are graded in order of increasing intensity from Faint, Very Light, Light, Fancy Light, Fancy, Fancy Intense, Fancy Vivid, Fancy Dark, and Fancy Deep.

| GIA COLOR SCALE   |   |
|---|---|
| COLORLESS   | D    |
|   | E    |
|   | F    |
| NEAR COLORLESS  | G    |
|   | H    |
|   | I    |
|   | J    |
| FAINT   | K    |
|   | L   |
|   | M  |
| VERY LIGHT  | N  |
|   | O  |
|   | P  |
|   | Q  |
| LIGHT   | R  |
|   | S  |
|   | T  |
|   | U  |
|   | V  |
|   | W  |
|   | X  |
| Y  |   |
| Z  |   |