

## CLARITY

Clarity simply refers to the natural imperfections which occur in all but the finest diamonds.

When we speak of a diamond's clarity, we are referring to the presence or absence of identifying characteristics on the surface (blemishes) and within (inclusions) the stone.

Given that natural diamonds are not grown in a sterile laboratory environment, but deep in the earth under astonishing amounts of heat and pressure and take an inconceivable journey to travel close to the surface, it is no surprise that most diamonds possess some flaws.

While the presence of these flaws does lower the clarity grade of a diamond, they can also be viewed as proof of a diamond's identity.

A grading certificate includes a 'plot' of the diamond's characteristics - think of it as the "diamonds fingerprint."

By comparing the uniqueness of your diamond's clarity characteristics with the plot provided on the diamond certificate, you can confirm that the diamond you receive is the same one you paid for.



### **FL**

#### **Flawless**

No inclusions and no blemishes visible under 10x magnification.



### **IF**

#### **Internally Flawless**

No inclusions visible under 10x magnification.



### **VVS1-VVS2**

#### **Very-Very Slightly Included**

Minute inclusions so slight, they are difficult to detect for a skilled grader under 10X magnification.



### **VS1-VS2**

#### **Very Slightly Included**

Minor inclusions seen only by a skilled grader, with difficulty under 10X magnification.



### **SI1-SI2**

#### **Slightly Included**

Noticeable inclusions that are easy to see under 10X magnification for a trained grader.



### **I1-I2-I3**

#### **Included**

Inclusions are obvious under 10X magnification and visible to the unaided eye, which affect transparency and brilliance.

Diamonds with the least and smallest imperfections receive the highest clarity grades. Diamonds with virtually none or few inclusions and blemishes are more highly valued as these are among the rarest.

As these inclusions tend to be microscopic, too tiny to be seen without magnification, they do not generally affect a diamond's beauty in any discernible way until you drop to the 'I' grade. Clarity characteristics in diamonds above the 'I' clarity grade have an impact on the diamond's value, not on the unmagnified diamond's appearance. Diamonds that receive clarity grades F through SI generally have no inclusions which are visible to the naked eye.

- ❖ To the naked eye, a VS<sub>1</sub> and an SI<sub>2</sub> diamond may look identical, but they actually are quite different in terms of overall quality and value, which is why expert and accurate assessment of diamond clarity is extremely important.



## FLUORESCENCE



Fluorescence refers to the diamonds tendency to emit a soft colored glow when exposed to ultraviolet light. Diamond fluorescence is a hotly debated topic in the diamond industry, but a study by the GIA in 1997 suggests, that fluorescence makes very little difference to the appearance of the diamond.

The study found that fluorescence made **no difference** to the average observer, and experienced observers (diamond graders and trade professionals) did not agree on the influence of fluorescence.

- ❖ Because of industry debate and prejudice (which appears unfounded), the market prices diamonds that exhibit strong fluorescence slightly lower, than those that have faint or no fluorescence.
- ❖ Don't let fluorescence unduly influence your choice when selecting a diamond and enjoy the lower price, unless you are buying as an investment, when you should consider re-sale value and ease of sale.