Moissanite vs Cubic Zirconia

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Moissanite vs Cubic Zirconia: Understanding the Key Differences

Moissanite and cubic zirconia are often compared because both are diamond alternatives used in jewellery. While they may appear similar at first glance, they differ significantly in composition, durability, brilliance, longevity and overall value. Understanding these distinctions is essential when choosing a stone for engagement rings or bespoke jewellery.

At PureJewels, education and transparency guide every conversation, ensuring each stone is chosen with clarity and intention.

What Is Moissanite?

How Moissanite Is Created

Moissanite is a lab-created gemstone made from silicon carbide. Although first discovered in meteorite fragments, moissanite used in jewellery today is entirely laboratory-grown under controlled conditions.

Durability and Composition

Moissanite ranks approximately **9.25 on the Mohs hardness scale**, making it highly durable and suitable for daily wear. It is resistant to scratching and maintains its polish over time.

Appearance and Light Performance

Moissanite is known for its high refractive index, producing strong rainbow-like flashes of colour. This results in a more fiery sparkle compared to diamonds or other simulants.

What Is Cubic Zirconia?

How Cubic Zirconia Is Made

Cubic zirconia (CZ) is a fully synthetic gemstone created from zirconium dioxide. It is designed to visually imitate diamond at a low cost.

Durability and Composition

Cubic zirconia ranks **8–8.5 on the Mohs scale**, making it significantly softer than moissanite. Over time, it is more prone to scratches and surface wear.

Appearance Over Time

While CZ can appear bright when new, it often becomes cloudy or dull with regular wear due to abrasion and residue build-up.

Moissanite vs Cubic Zirconia: Visual Appearance

Brilliance and Sparkle

Moissanite exhibits intense fire with noticeable rainbow flashes. Cubic zirconia reflects light in a flatter, glass-like manner and lacks depth over time.

Clarity and Transparency

Moissanite maintains clarity and brilliance for many years. Cubic zirconia can lose transparency and appear hazy as it ages.

Moissanite vs Cubic Zirconia: Durability and Wearability

Hardness Comparison

- **Moissanite:** ~9.25 Mohs
- **Cubic zirconia:** 8–8.5 Mohs

Moissanite is far better suited for daily wear, including engagement rings. Cubic zirconia is more appropriate for occasional jewellery.

Longevity

Moissanite retains its polish and appearance long-term. Cubic zirconia typically requires replacement after prolonged wear.

Moissanite vs Cubic Zirconia: Cost and Value

Moissanite Cost Factors

Moissanite is more expensive than cubic zirconia due to superior durability, optical performance and longevity. It offers value through lasting appearance rather than rarity.

Cubic Zirconia Cost Factors

Cubic zirconia is inexpensive and widely available. However, it holds no long-term value and is not considered a fine jewellery gemstone.

Moissanite vs Cubic Zirconia for Engagement Rings

Why Choose Moissanite

Moissanite is suitable for engagement rings due to its strength, durability and enduring brilliance. It offers a modern alternative for those prioritising sparkle and longevity at a lower cost than a diamond.

Why Choose Cubic Zirconia

Cubic zirconia may be chosen for fashion jewellery or short-term wear, but it is generally not recommended for engagement rings due to wear and loss of brilliance.

Moissanite vs Cubic Zirconia in Bespoke Jewellery

Design Considerations at PureJewels

PureJewels recommends moissanite for bespoke designs intended for daily wear. Cubic zirconia is typically reserved for temporary or costume-style pieces.

Available Precious Metals

PureJewels can create bespoke jewellery using moissanite in:

- 18ct yellow or white gold
- 22ct yellow gold
- 22ct Sunrise Gold
- Platinum

Cubic zirconia is not typically recommended for high-value bespoke settings.

Which Is Better: Moissanite or Cubic Zirconia?

Moissanite offers superior durability, brilliance and longevity, making it suitable for fine jewellery. Cubic zirconia is a budget-friendly option for occasional wear but lacks the resilience and lasting beauty required for heirloom pieces.

At PureJewels, the emphasis remains on informed choice, craftsmanship and transparency—ensuring each piece reflects lasting quality and intention.