How do I know if my gold is 22ct or 24ct?

Gold Jewelry & Accessories · https://www.purejewels.com/faqs/gold-jewelry-accessories/how-do-i-know-if-my-gold-is-22ct-or-24ct/

Identifying whether your gold is **22ct or 24ct** involves checking a few key indicators related to **purity, hallmarking, and appearance**. Here's how you can determine the carat value of your gold safely and accurately:

1. Check the Hallmark Stamp

The most reliable way is to look for a **hallmark**, usually engraved in a discreet area of the item (like the inner band of a ring or clasp of a chain).

- **22ct gold** is typically marked as:
  - **22K**, **916**, or **91.6%** purity
- **24ct gold** is usually marked as:
  - **24K**, **999**, or **99.9%** purity

In the UK, hallmarking is regulated by the **Assay Office**, and all genuine pieces above 1g should carry an official stamp.

2. Observe the Colour

- **24ct gold** has a **rich, deep yellow** tone and is softer.
- **22ct gold** is slightly **less yellow** and appears a bit firmer due to the alloy mix.

While colour is not foolproof, it can give a subtle indication, especially when comparing two pieces side by side.

3. Test the Purity (Safely)

If you're unsure, a jeweller can:

- Use an **XRF (X-ray fluorescence) machine** to verify the metal's composition without damaging it.
- Perform an **acid test**, though this is less common for high-value or delicate pieces.

At **PureJewels**, we use professional **XRF purity testing**—the same standard as the **London Assay Office**—for precise, non-invasive results.

Want to be sure?

You're always welcome to bring your item into our **London showroom** for a complimentary purity check and hallmark explanation.