What’s the Difference Between Gold-Plated, Gold-Filled, and Solid Gold Jewellery?

Gold Types · https://www.purejewels.com/faqs/gold-types/whats-the-difference-between-gold-plated-gold-filled-and-solid-gold-jewellery/

When shopping for gold jewellery, terms like **gold-plated**, **gold-filled**, and **solid gold** can often be confusing. Each refers to a different level of gold content and craftsmanship, and each serves a different purpose. Understanding these differences will help you make informed, lasting choices—whether for everyday wear or a treasured heirloom.

1. Solid Gold Jewellery

Definition: Solid gold refers to jewellery made entirely of gold alloy, typically in **18ct, 22ct, or 24ct** purity. While 24ct is pure gold, 18ct and 22ct are blended with small amounts of other metals to enhance strength while retaining richness.

Characteristics:

- **High intrinsic value** – solid gold retains its worth over time.
- **Durable and tarnish-resistant**, ideal for everyday and lifetime wear.
- **Naturally hypoallergenic**, especially in higher carats (18ct+).
- **Heirloom-worthy** – often passed down through generations.

At PureJewels, we craft exclusively in **solid gold**, each piece hallmarked by the **UK Assay Office**, ensuring both purity and authenticity.

2. Gold-Filled Jewellery

Definition: Gold-filled jewellery is made by mechanically bonding a thick layer of gold (usually 5% of total weight) over a base metal like brass. It is not the same as solid gold, but more substantial than gold-plated.

Characteristics:

- Contains more gold than plated items, but far less than solid gold.
- Wears well for everyday use if cared for properly.
- More affordable, but does not appreciate in value like solid gold.
- Still **not hypoallergenic** for everyone, depending on the base metal.

Gold-filled jewellery is more durable than plating, but still **not considered fine jewellery** by most luxury standards.

3. Gold-Plated Jewellery

Definition: Gold-plated jewellery features a **very thin layer of gold** (less than 0.5 microns) applied to a base metal—often copper or brass—through electroplating.

Characteristics:

- Very affordable and widely available in fashion jewellery.
- Not durable, **prone to fading, tarnishing**, and rubbing off with time.
- Often contains **nickel or copper**, which can cause irritation for sensitive skin.
- Not suitable for daily wear or long-term use.

Gold-plated jewellery is best for short-term fashion use rather than meaningful, lasting keepsakes.

Comparison at a Glance

Feature	Solid Gold	Gold-Filled	Gold-Plated
Gold Content	75–99.9% (18ct–24ct)	~5% (by total weight)	Less than 1%
Durability	Excellent	Moderate	Low
Tarnish Resistance	High	Medium	Low
Hypoallergenic	Yes (esp. 18ct–24ct)	Sometimes	Rarely
Investment Value	High	Low	Minimal
Hallmark Eligible	Yes	No	No

Why Solid Gold is Worth It

Solid gold jewellery is an **investment in beauty, heritage, and value**. It resists time and trends, offering unmatched **longevity**, **resale worth**, and **sentimental strength**.

At **PureJewels**, we believe jewellery should be as enduring as the moments it represents. Our collections are designed in **18ct, 22ct, and 24ct solid gold,** crafted to honour milestones, cultures, and personal journeys.

Explore the Purity of Gold at PureJewels

From our signature **22ct gold bangles** to bespoke **18ct white and rose gold designs**, each piece is crafted with integrity and care. Unlike gold-plated or filled pieces, our jewellery is designed to last, not just in quality, but in **meaning**.