What is enamelling?

Goldsmithing Techniques · https://www.purejewels.com/faqs/goldsmithing-techniques/what-is-enamelling/

In a world of precious metals and gemstones, there’s a quieter form of beauty, one born of fire, colour, and craftsmanship. This is the art of **enamelling**.

At **PureJewels**, where cultural tradition meets modern artistry, **enamelling** represents a rich heritage of jewellery-making. It's a technique that brings gold to life with **vivid colour**, **symbolism**, and **timeless elegance**.

Enamelling Defined: Colour That Lasts for Centuries

Enamelling is the technique of applying **powdered glass** or coloured compounds to metal surfaces, which are then **fired at high temperatures** to fuse the enamel to the metal, creating a **durable, glossy, and often vibrant finish**.

Used for **decorative detailing**, **symbolic motifs**, and **artistic storytelling**, enamelling transforms a simple gold surface into a miniature canvas.

How is Enamelling Done?

1. **Surface Preparation**: The metal (typically gold, silver, or copper) is cleaned and shaped.
2. **Application**: Finely ground glass powder, often mixed with colour pigments, is carefully applied to the surface.
3. **Firing**: The piece is fired in a kiln at high heat (usually between 700°C–900°C), melting the enamel onto the metal.
4. **Cooling**: As it cools, the enamel hardens into a smooth, glass-like surface.
5. **Finishing**: Multiple layers may be applied for depth, each fired and polished to perfection.

Types of Enamelling in Jewellery

- **Cloisonné**: Uses fine wire to create raised outlines, filled with enamel, ideal for intricate patterns.
- **Champlevé**: Recesses are carved into the metal and filled with enamel.

- **Plique-à-jour**: A stained-glass-like style where enamel is suspended between metal borders with no backing.
- **Guilloché**: Transparent enamel applied over an engraved surface to create optical patterns.

Each style offers its own distinct effect, from delicate translucence to bold colour blocks.

Enamelling and Gold Jewellery

Enamel pairs beautifully with high-carat gold, especially **22ct**, offering a bold contrast between the richness of gold and the vibrancy of enamel.

At **PureJewels**, enamelling is featured in select **heritage-inspired collections** and bespoke pieces, reflecting South Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mughal design influences. It is ideal for:

- Bridal jewellery with symbolic colourwork
- Pendants or lockets with religious or cultural motifs
- Decorative bangles or cuffs with floral, paisley, or geometric patterns

Benefits of Enamelling

- **Adds Colour Without Gemstones**: Ideal for designs where stones are not suitable
- **Highly Artistic**: Each enamelled piece is like wearable art
- **Long-Lasting Finish**: Enamel is highly durable when properly fired
- **Cultural Heritage**: A technique used for centuries across India, Persia, and Europe

Care for Enamelled Jewellery

While durable, enamel **can chip** if dropped or exposed to sudden impact. To preserve its beauty:

- Avoid abrasive cleaners
- Store separately from harder gemstones
- Clean gently with a soft cloth

At PureJewels, we offer guidance on caring for enamelled pieces so their colour remains luminous for decades.

Final Thoughts: Fire Meets Fine Art

Enamelling is where gold meets colour, and craftsmanship meets creativity. It is the mark of a jeweller who not only shapes metal but tells stories in hues that never fade. At

PureJewels, enamelled jewellery speaks to our commitment to preserving **heritage techniques**, while offering customers pieces that are not only luxurious but meaningful.