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How to Choose a Pearl

By John Marcus

Pearls are considered nature's gemstones and are perfect for inclusion in fine jewelry. Harvested from oysters, pearls are chosen in a similar fashion to other gemstones, including diamonds. When looking to purchase a pearl, follow the following seven tips in order to find the best pearl for your money.

1.) Color

Although you may think of pearls being creamy or off-white in color, pearls actually come in a wide array of colors. Pearls can range in color from rare black pearls to pure white pearls, and every color in between. By far, the most popular colors for pearls are white, cream, yellow and pink. Tahitian pearls are black, blue, grey, or even silver in color, and tend to be more expensive than the afore-mentioned lighter colors, but it should be kept in mind that no color is considered better than another. When choosing a color of a pearl, consider your personal tastes and even skin tone to determine what color of pearl is the best pick for you.

When examining pearls, place the pearls on a white or off-white background to best see the true color. Often, stores will place the pearls on a black velvet tray to provide the most impact, but the dark color could prevent you from seeing the true quality of the color.

Most pearls are natural colors, but some are dyed. Dyed pearls are generally less expensive than naturally colored pearls, so take the color into careful consideration when buying.

2.) Luster

The luster of the pearl is the quality of the reflective surface on the outermost layer of the pearl. This luster is quite important when choosing a quality pearl, and generally speaking, the higher the luster is an indication of a higher quality pearl.

3.) Coating

Pearls are made of different layers of nacre, a solution the oyster secretes to protect its delicate interior from an irritant, often a simple grain of sand. The coating of the pearl is the outermost layer of nacre and should be thick enough to protect the pearl. Usually, coating and luster go hand in hand, with the thickness of the coating directly affecting the quality of the luster. Pearls with a thin coating are more likely to chip, are not as durable, and often appear dull.

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4.) Surface

The surface of the pearl should be smooth without any ridges, bumps, or pits. The higher quality of a pearl will have a smooth surface that will enable the light to properly reflect and showcase the color and luster of the pearl. Also, avoid any pearls with blemishes on the surface.

5.) Shape

Although most pearls are round, that is not the only shape of pearl available. That being said, round pearls should indeed be completely round. The different shapes of pearls available are:

- Round
- Semi round

- Off round
- Baroque

Generally speaking, round pearls are worth the most, with semi round, off round, and Baroque being valued less with each category. Usually cultured pearls are considered round with freshwater pearls more odd shaped.

6.) Size

Size in pearls is measured in millimeters. In pearl necklaces where each pearl is approximately the same size, the measurement is limited to a range, such as 7x7.5mm, meaning the pearls in the strand are between seven and seven and one-half millimeters in size. Usually, the larger the size of the pearl, the more expensive the price tag. However, the other factors still come into play.

7.) Setting

Pearls are set by drilling through the pearl to tie on a strand for a necklace or top mounted for other pieces of jewelry. When choosing the setting, ensure the setting itself is of good quality and the pearl is appropriately set. This is critical when choosing a necklace, since a pearl that is drilled off center will cause it to hang awkwardly on the strand.

John Marcus specializes in Pearls

<http://www.1-pearl-earings.com>

What Makes Pearl Jewelry So Special?

By James Adams

Ever wonder what made pearl jewelry so special? What the difference was between real and fake pearls? Why does it cost a lot for real pearl jewelry? I will try to give you a brief explanation in the following paragraphs.

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First off pearls come from oysters commonly found in the ocean. The oyster lays layers of different chemical compounds to form the precious stone. The compound is calcium carbonate and conchiolin which combined together makes mother-of-pearl.

Most pearls are white but can be tinted with a vast array of colors to give them a unique and colorful look. Some of the more common colors are blue, yellow, brown, green and purple along with a few others. The rarest of colors is black. Black pearls are much harder to come by due to manufacturing processes. The process that black pearls are subject too has a small percentage rate that actually make it through the process, due to rejecting the nucleus.

Most people believe that pearls only come from saltwater but that is not true. There are two types of pearls; saltwater and freshwater pearls. The majority of pearls come from the ocean in protected lagoons across the world. There are pearls that come from freshwater mussels that live in rivers, lakes and ponds.

The bulk of freshwater pearls today mainly come from China and a few other remote regions.

If you are wondering how to tell a real pearl from a fake pearl apart it is quite simple. The simplest of methods is running your teeth along the pearl, if it is smooth it is more than likely fake. If it has a unique roughness to it that makes your teeth grit it is more than likely real. If you attempting to decipher natural pearls from cultured pearls you will more than likely require a specialist with advanced machinery.

When searching for pearl jewelry buying fake pearl is probably your best bet. It looks usually about the same and costs a lot less! There are many sites on the internet that specialize in pearl jewelry in a vast array of colors, just keep your eyes open. Find the right pearl for you!

More on Pearl Jewelry:

<http://www.xaxe.com>

, pearl necklace:

<http://xaxe.com/pearl-c-21.html>

,

turquoise necklace:

<http://xaxe.com/turquoise-c-34.html>



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