

# Bee Informed™

## Consumer Shopping Guide

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Atlanta, GA, USA.

*"I believe everyone should have something genuinely beautiful that is one-of-a-kind and makes them feel truly special when they wear it."*

*~Meagan Barbee  
Creator, Owner, & Designer  
Barbee's Baubles, LLC*



# Brand Portfolio



**BEHOLD THE BRILLIANCE OF OUR BAUBLES.**

*Let us help design and create your next bespoke masterpiece.*

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# Did You Know?

## Investments, Sourcing, and Heirlooms

- The simplest way to transfer wealth from one generation to the next is with art and jewelry.
- In November 2020 mining ceased at the Argyle mine in East Kimberley, Western Australia, after 37 years of operations and producing more than 865 million carats of rough diamonds. Most of the world's colored diamonds (yellow, chocolate, blue, pink) came from this mine. There is no plan for the mine to ever reopen. Colored "fancy" diamonds are exceptionally rare. We have a lot of them in our high jewelry collection, and they are a cornerstone of many of our baubles.
- Lab grown diamond prices have been declining for years and currently cost about 85% less than natural diamonds. Over the past year, lab grown diamonds have fallen -21.46% while natural diamonds have fallen -5.46%. It takes 150 minutes to grow a diamond in a lab. It can take nature up to 3 billion years to form a diamond.

## Pearls are Special

- There are 100,000+ different species of mollusks in the world's waters, but only 4 species of mollusks are used to grow cultured pearls.
- 95% of available pearls are cultured pearls. Natural pearls, especially of high quality, are exceptionally rare.
- Each pearl is formed from a single mollusk (oyster).
- Growing production costs and labor shortages have led to a declining supply of freshwater pearls and thus a sharp increase in price in 2024. Pearls < 10mm will be hard to obtain in the near future, as farmers are holding their mollusks until pearl sizes are much larger. . . which will make the pearls cost-prohibitive. Get yours while you can! I bought out my supplier of Tahitian pearls and was told "there will be no more after these because we can't get them in!"
- The biggest factor in the value of a pearl is its luster which is a reflection of the nacre that builds up over time as the pearl grows in the mollusk's mantle.
- The name "Meagan" come from "Margaret" which means "pearl."

## Maintaining Appearances

- The easiest and safest way to clean 0.925 sterling silver jewelry (that doesn't have sensitive gemstones or pearls in it) is to place it in a bowl lined with aluminum foil, filled with hot water and dissolved baking soda. The tarnish disappears as if by magic due to an electrolytic reaction which transfer the oxidized tarnish from the silver to the more reactive aluminum foil. Rinse when reaction finishes bubbling. May repeat.
- Minimize touching white pearls. Wipe all pearls with a very soft cloth after each use, and store all pearls in their own box securely to prevent movement.
- Follow product guidelines on commercial jewelry, and read labels carefully.

## CT vs TCW vs K

- Gemstone size is measured in Carats (cts)

Total carat weight (TCW) reflects the entire weight of a single type of gemstone in a piece/set

1 carat = 0.2 grams

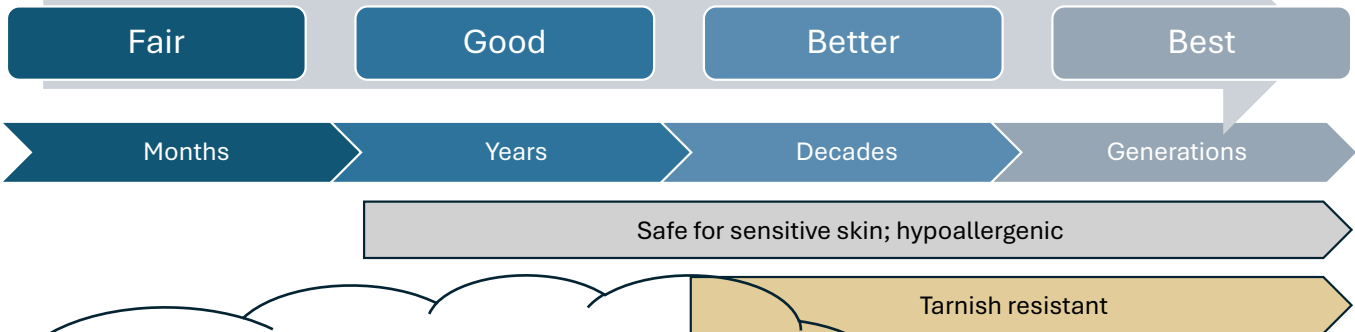
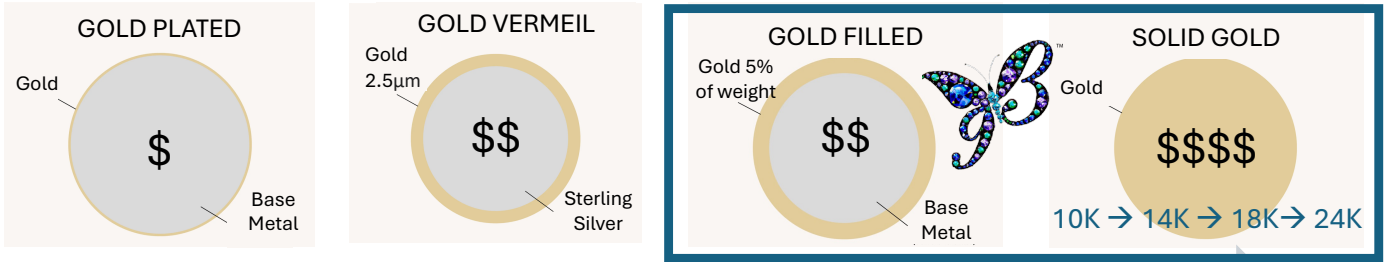
Gold is measured in grams. The purity of the gold is reflected by the karat (K). Pure gold is 24K and is rarely used in jewelry because it is too soft.

The US Federal Trade Commission prohibits products less than 10-karat gold from being sold or marketed as "gold" in the USA. Other countries in the EU and the UK have lower standards.

## Birthstones

- People born in June, August, October, November, and December have more than one "birthstone:" they have a different astrologic (zodiac) gemstone.
- Your zodiac is based on the constellations on your birthday in your birth year. Since the stars have shifted over time, so have the date ranges for the zodiacs.

# Hardware and Metal: Price, Quality, and Durability



**DID YOU KNOW?** The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) used to prohibit products less than 10-karat gold from being sold or marketed as "gold" in the USA. The revised 2018 "Jewelry Guides" by the FTC eliminate the minimal threshold so that even 5-karat can be sold or marketed as "gold."



Our semi-precious collections (The Princess of Pearls and The Queen of Gems) include baubles constructed mostly in gold fill and 14K gold. A limited number of baubles are constructed in 0.925 sterling silver hardware which we no longer use. Our high jewelry collections feature only 14K-18K gold.

Karat	Definition	Karat Mark (European*)	Percentage of Gold Content
24-karat gold	24 parts gold + 0 parts alloy	24K (999)	24/24 = 100% (99.9%)
18-karat gold	18 parts gold + 6 parts alloy	18K (750)	18/24 = 75%
14-karat gold	14 parts gold + 10 parts alloy	14K (585)	14/24 = 58.3%
10-karat gold	10 parts gold + 14 parts alloy	10K (417)	10/24 = 41.7%
Gold filled	Sheets of thin gold (usually 14K) over jeweler's brass or copper	1/20 GF; 14/20GF; 1/20 14KGF	5%
Gold vermeil	Thinner sheets of 10K or higher gold to a thickness of 2.5µm over sterling silver	.925 GP	N/A- surface has 2.5µm of (14K) gold
Gold plated	a base metal (brass or silver) coated with a thin layer of gold via electroplating	GP; RGE; RGP; GEP; HE; HGP	N/A- surface has 0.5-3µm of (14K) gold

\*The Millesimal Fineness Scale measures purity in parts per thousand.



# Precious and Semi-Precious Gemstones

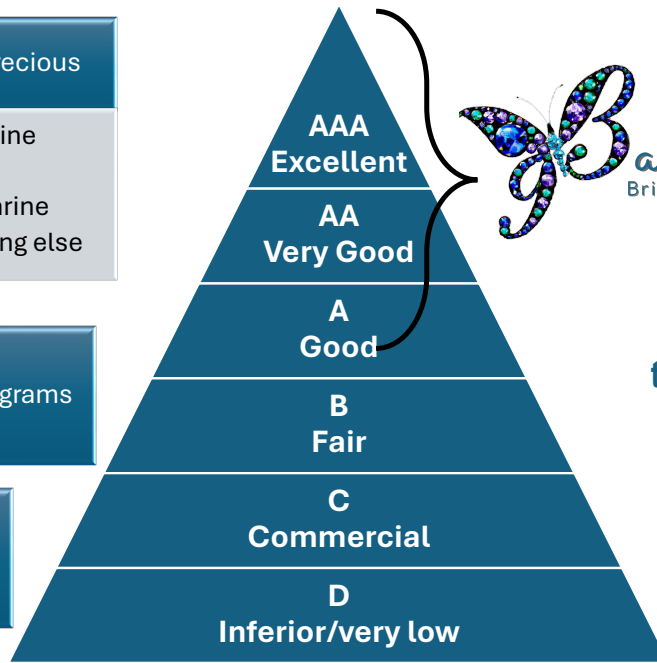
Precious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diamond</li> <li>• Sapphire</li> <li>• Ruby</li> <li>• Emerald</li> </ul>

Semi-Precious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourmaline</li> <li>• Opal</li> <li>• Aquamarine</li> <li>• Everything else</li> </ul>

Size measured in carats (ct, cts) not Karats (or carrots!)

1 ct = 0.2 grams

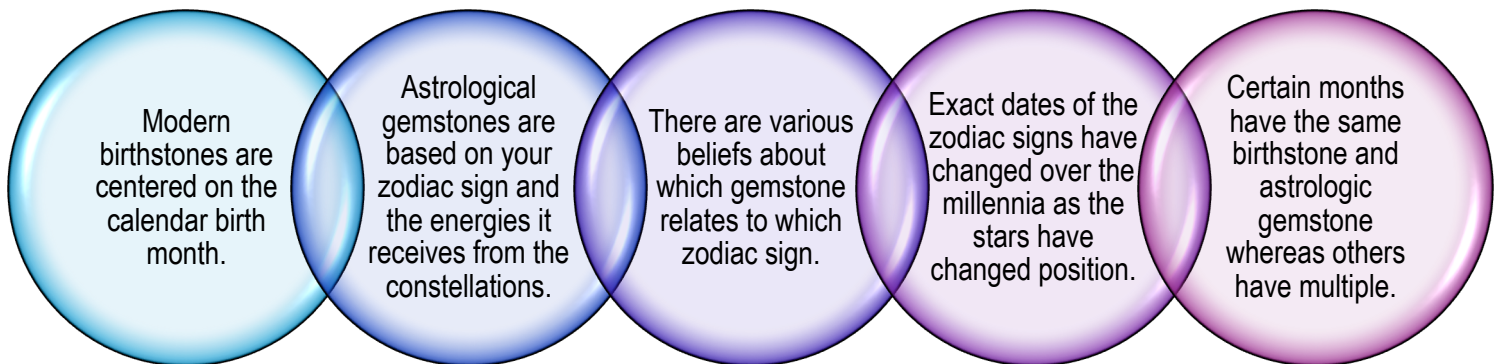
TCW = total number of carats of all the gemstones of one type in the set or piece



*Barbee's Baubles*  
Brilliantly bold. Beautifully bespoke.

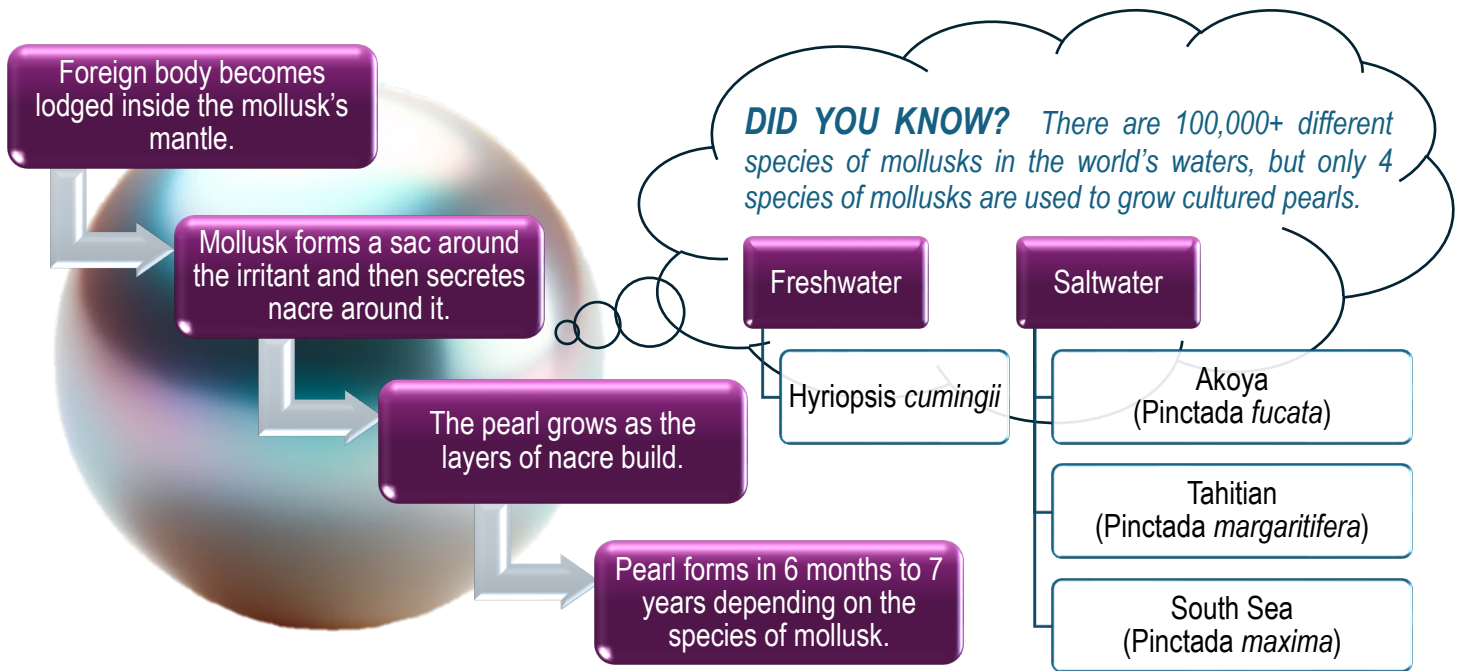
In our semi-precious collections (The Princess of Pearls and the Queen of Gems), we only use the best we can find and afford, keeping it beautiful, special, yet obtainable.

## Birthstones and Astrologic Gemstones (“Zodiac Stones”)



Calendar Month	(Modern) Birthstone	Zodiac Sign (appx. Months)	Astrological Gemstone
January	Garnet	Capricorn (Goat)	Garnet
February	Amethyst	Aquarius (Water Bearer)	Amethyst
March	Aquamarine	Pisces (Fish)	Aquamarine
April	Diamond	Aries (Ram)	Diamond
May	Emerald	Taurus (Bull)	Emerald
June	Alexandrite; Moonstone	Gemini (Twins)	Pearl
July	Ruby	Cancer (Crab)	Ruby
August	Peridot; Spinel	Leo (Lion)	Peridot; (Sard)onyx
September	Blue Sapphire	Virgo (Virgin)	Blue Sapphire
October	Tourmaline	Libra (Balance)	Opal
November	Golden Topaz; Citrine	Scorpio (Scorpion)	Golden Topaz; Citrine
December	Blue Zircon; Blue Topaz; Tanzanite	Sagittarius (Archer)	Turquoise

# Where Pearls Come From



## Characteristics that Determine Grade and Value of Pearls

### Tahitian & South Sea Pearl Grading and Benchmarks

Grade	% Annual yield	Surface blemishes	Deep inclusions	Luster	Reflected light sources
A	1-5%	≤5%	0	Excellent; detailed facial recognition	Sharp, crisp, little to no blurring on edges
A/B	5-10%	≤15%	1; able to hide w/ mounting	High to medium; good facial recognition	Some blurring on edges; slightly satiny
C*	60%	≤40%	1-2	Low; little to no racial recognition	Soft and blurred with slight definition
D	50%	≤60%	Any	Little to none; dull or chalky	Soft, heavily blurred with very little definition

\*We only use Grade C Tahitian or South Sea Pearls of the highest intrinsic quality which are technically downgraded due to rippling, which we find beautiful.

**RARE**  
**\$\$\$\$**

High luster (mirror-like)  
Larger size >10mm  
Natural, wild pearls  
Perfectly round shape  
Uniformity in strand/pair  
Symmetrical baroque shape  
High color depth/saturation

### Akoya & Freshwater Pearl Grading and Benchmarks

Grade		% Annual yield	Surface blemishes	Luster	Reflected light sources	Shape*	Matching
Freshwater	Akoya						
AAAA	AAA	1-2%	≤5%	Excellent; mostly detailed facial features	Sharp edges; excellent light return	<5% deviance from true round	Near perfect; little to no variance
AAA	AA+	3-10%	≤10%	Very high; some detailed facial features	Mostly sharp edges; very high light return	Near round to-round	Very good to excellent
AA	AA	20%	≤20%	Medium; blurry facial features	Soft, blurred edges; good light return	Off-round, oval, or potato shaped visible from 6" or more	Fair to decent
A	A	50%	≤30%	Very low; no definition; dull or chalky	Soft, heavily blurred	Any	Poor

\*Grade AA-AAA Akoya pearls will be perfectly round in shape. Grade A Akoya pearls are round to near-round.

**All our pearls are cultured.**  
**None of our pearls are dyed.**

Low luster (chalky)  
Smaller size  
Asymmetrical  
Ununiform shape  
Dyed or poor color  
Many inclusions

**COMMON (\$)**

# What Defines Us

Our pieces are hand designed and handcrafted, ensuring that each bauble is a one-of-a-kind work of art. We offer an exclusive, tailored, Shop the Vault™ service for clients who seek a more personalized engagement, on-site experience, or individual design session.

*Bespoke*

*Bold*

We specialize in colorful baubles that are as unique as each of our clients. In addition to natural white diamonds, all our high jewelry baubles contain colored gemstones or fancy diamonds and/or pearls. Whether for a gift, a self-indulgence, or an investment, we guarantee our baubles will add color and conversation to your ensemble and brighten up any collection like a Monet amongst Rembrandts.

Using only the highest quality materials, our high jewelry is built for a lifetime of enjoyment and to be passed down to future generations. Our baubles are constructed of 14-18K gold that is always free from rhodium plating. All of our diamonds, gemstones, and pearls are natural and an investment that will pay dividends in many facets. Appraisal and documentation are included with the purchase of each bauble. We ensure our baubles are exactly what we say they are.

*Bonafide*

*Brilliant*

Like each one of our gemstones, we feel our designers and artisans are truly brilliant. The ingenious design concepts used in each bauble such as the settings and the closure mechanism are only successful because of the expertise and craftsmanship of our artisans. The brilliance of our designers, our artisans, and our gemstones cannot be recreated.

Like some of our clients, some of our baubles inspire us. Portions of proceeds from select baubles benefit a charity of the client's choosing or one that we have selected based on the inspiration. We prefer to donate to charities that are important to us and our clients instead of running sales.

*Beneficent*

*We are honest and genuine. If you are ever dissatisfied with our product, we will make it right by any reasonable standards or requests. Help us keep the industry honest by reporting fraud to the Federal Trade Commission [here](#).*

# What's in your Bauble Box?

**BEHOLD THE BRILLIANCE OF OUR BAUBLES.**

*Lest us help design and create your next bespoke masterpiece.*

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