

K FINE SS

ASSAY OFFICE

MARKS ON SOLID METAL



Ask if it's hallmarked

IT'S YOUR GUARANTEE

In the UK it is illegal to sell or describe any item as Gold, Silver, Platinum or Palladium unless it is hallmarked*

A UK hallmark is struck by an independent assay office and guarantees the precious metal content of the item you are buying. Sellers in contravention of the law may be prosecuted and could face fines or imprisonment.

COMPULSORY MARKS		THE HALLMARK COMPRISES THREE COMPULSORY MARKS: A SPONSOR'S MARK, A FINENESS MARK AND AN ASSAY OFFICE MARK.								
Sponsor's Mark	Fineness Mark				Assay Office Mark					
The registered mark of the company that submitted the article for hallmarking.	Tells you the precious metal content, expressed in parts per thousand.				Tells you which Assay Office tested and hallmarked the article.					
	Silver	Palladium	Gold	Platinum						
		2009	 9 carat		 London Birmingham Sheffield Edinburgh					
			 14 carat							
			 18 carat							
		2010	 22 carat							
OPTIONAL MARKS		YOU MAY SEE OPTIONAL MARKS, SUCH AS THE TRADITIONAL FINENESS SYMBOL AND THE DATE LETTER DEPICTING THE YEAR THE ITEM WAS HALLMARKED.								
Traditional Fineness Symbols										
Date Letter										
International Convention Marks					This mark is used by countries, including the United Kingdom, that are signatories to the International Convention on Hallmarking and is recognised by all those countries.					
Exemption Weights*	Silver 7.78 grams	Palladium 1.0 gram	Gold 1.0 gram	Platinum 0.5 grams						
Articles above these weights must be hallmarked										

What should I do if my item is not hallmarked? If you have a concern regarding hallmarking contact your local Trading Standards Authority. For more information visit www.gov.uk/government/organisations/british-hallmarking-council

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