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Engagement Rings 101 – What You Need to Know before You Shop [Alexandra Gulkin](#)

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A new marriage is a thing of exceptional beauty, laden with hope for a lifetime of love and fulfillment to be shared with the one you love. It all starts with the perfect ring, but there are so many options to choose from. Here are a few things you need to know before you start shopping for engagement rings.

Determining Quality and Value of Engagement Rings

As the saying goes, “a diamond is forever,” and “forever,” in this instance starts with choosing engagement rings of the very best quality for the budget you are working with. The basics of rating diamond quality has to do with a phrase that is probably already familiar to you; the four C’s. What are the four C’s, exactly? They stand for cut, clarity, color and carat weight, and the value of the diamond is assessed by a combination of all four of these qualities. It is for this reason that the biggest diamond is not necessarily the “best,” and also the reason that you will find a broad variance in pricing for diamond engagement rings of the same carat weight.

The Importance of Choosing the “Right” Setting

Choosing the right setting is extremely important since engagement rings are intended to be worn every day under a variety of circumstances and during all kinds of activities. In this aspect, it’s wise to consider the work your soon-to-be-betrothed does, as well as her overall lifestyle. Some ring styles, especially those that feature certain solitaire shapes or more elevated settings, while being very beautiful, may also be completely impractical for certain people to wear on a daily basis.

A Ring She’ll Adore

When shopping the vast selection of engagement rings, it’s also important to her personal style and preferences in mind. Diamond engagement rings are by far the most popular, but some women prefer an alternative stone, such as a ruby or a sapphire. Similarly, ring design can be tailored to her own style with the many options in custom engagement rings, ensuring a truly unique expression of your love and devotion. Think about the shape of stone that she prefers as well as the metal for the setting and the overall design. Selection can be broken down by different categories of ring design, as well, allowing you to view multiple alternatives within a certain style.

The most important thing about engagement rings is that you choose high quality for the purposes of both appearance and durability, as well as a setting that works well for her particular lifestyle and a style that suits her personally. This attention to detail will not go unnoticed, and she’ll know that you have put every care into selecting a ring that she’ll adore – almost as much as she adores you.

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Alexandra Gulkin is a reporter, writer and columnist in the jewelry industry. She is celebrated for her real-time coverage of trade shows, jewelry trends in a [engagement rings](#), gemstones, events and secrets on where to find the highest quality a [diamond engagement rings](#).

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