PROCEEDURES FOR TESTING GOLD, PLATINUM AND SILVER

To test for the karat value of gold, platinum and silver, you will need the following materials and tools:
• Black acid testing stone that is washed thoroughly with water prior to each test.
• Acids.
• Gold testing needles with gold tips - used for comparison with test pieces.

Testing for 10K, 12K, 14K
Scratch the gold piece to be tested on the stone. Next to this position, scratch the appropriate needle (10, 12 or 14K). Place a drop of the appropriate acid on the stone where the gold was rubbed off. If the gold is the same karat or higher, the color of the scratch mark for the gold piece will appear the same as the mark from the needle. If that gold piece is a lower karat, the scratched deposit will become fainter and eventually disappear.

Testing for 18K
Scratch the test piece on the stone and apply 18K acid. Any gold that is less than 18K will disappear in less than 30 seconds. Gold that remains on the stone is 18K or higher.

Testing for 20K and 24K
Scratch the gold piece on the stone. Next, scratch any item of know karat (coin or needle) on the stone. Apply one drop of acid to area. The material that starts to disappear has the lower karat.

Testing for Platinum
Scratch the test item on the stone and apply one drop of acid to the application on the stone. If the material is platinum, it should keep its white, bright color.

White Gold
The same procedure for platinum can be used for 18K white gold. The material on the stone should start changing to a light bronze color in about three minutes. For 14K white gold, the material on the stone should disappear in 15 seconds.

Testing for Silver
Place a drop of acid on the object to be tested.
• .925 silver and above, the acid will turn red.
• 70-89% silver, the acid will turn green/brown.

* Please note: Acid test for any silver below .925 may be inconclusive as other metals can produce similar results.

Test Acids have a shelf life of approximately 12 months.