



WEDDING RING GUIDE

Taking part in an ancient ritual of placing a wedding band on each other's finger dates back to ancient Egypt, the circle was symbol of eternity and use to represent the union of the heart.

Matching

The double-ring ceremonies, where the groom also gets a wedding band didn't become common until the 20th century. The traditional choice today is a matched set, however many couples take the non-traditional route and choose different wedding rings.

Shape

Classic wedding bands come in every style and shape. But there is always the option of having your rings custom made, for a more personal style. The bride can have her wedding band shaped around her engagement ring.





Metal

Gold is the most popular choice when it comes to wedding rings it comes in 3 different colours: yellow, white & red. Gold is soft and so, in order to vary its colour and hardness, gold is alloyed to other metals. Native gold is yellow, but alloyed to silver, platinum or zinc will turn its colour white. Copper is added in order to obtain a red or pink gold. The purity of the gold is indicated in terms of its carat, which defines the proportion of pure gold present in the metal. Pure gold is 24 carat; therefore, the purity of the gold is expressed in 24^{ths}, meaning 18ct gold is an alloy of 18 parts pure gold and 6 parts other metals the most commonly used is 18ct and 9ct. Consider having your rings made out of Fairtrade gold as it makes a real difference to the lives of miners, their families and communities. Unfortunately it is only available in 18ct. See www.fairtrade.org.uk/Buying-Fairtrade/Gold for more info. A good alternative to Fairtrade gold is 9ct recycled gold.

Platinum band are also becoming very popular, very durable but more expensive than gold.

Silver is not as durable as gold or platinum therefore you should only consider this option if you are on a really tight budget.

Thickness & width

It is recommended to choose a minimum width of 2mm and a thickness of 1.5mm to ensure the durability of the ring.

Finish / Texture

Several metal finishing are available such as polished, satin or matte finish. In some case you can also choose to have a texture imprinted such as a hammer finish.



Size / which hand?

Brides and grooms traditionally placed a wedding band on the third finger of each other's left hand because people once believed the "Veina Amoris", Latin for vein of love ran directly from that finger to the heart. Medical science eventually corrected that belief, but the tradition remained. Today traditions do vary depending on the culture, country or religion the ring is worn on either the left or right hand. Nowadays most couples in England and America wear their wedding rings on the left hand just like the ancient Egyptians. Eastern Europeans and Orthodox Christians traditionally wear the wedding band on the right hand the reason stems from Roman custom. The Latin word for left is "sinister", which in addition to this sense also has the same senses as the English word. The Latin word for right is "dexter", a word that evolved into "dexterity". Hence, the left hand had a negative connotation and the right a good one. Jewish couples wear the wedding ring on the left hand, even though it is placed on the right hand during the marriage ceremony. In The Netherlands, Catholic people wear it on the left, all others on the right; in Austria, Catholic people wear it on the right. So check out what the custom is in your country or culture before you tie the knot.

Engraving

Most couples choose to have their names and the date of the wedding engraved in the rings, however this is a personal choice. Engraving usually cost around £10 per letter.

