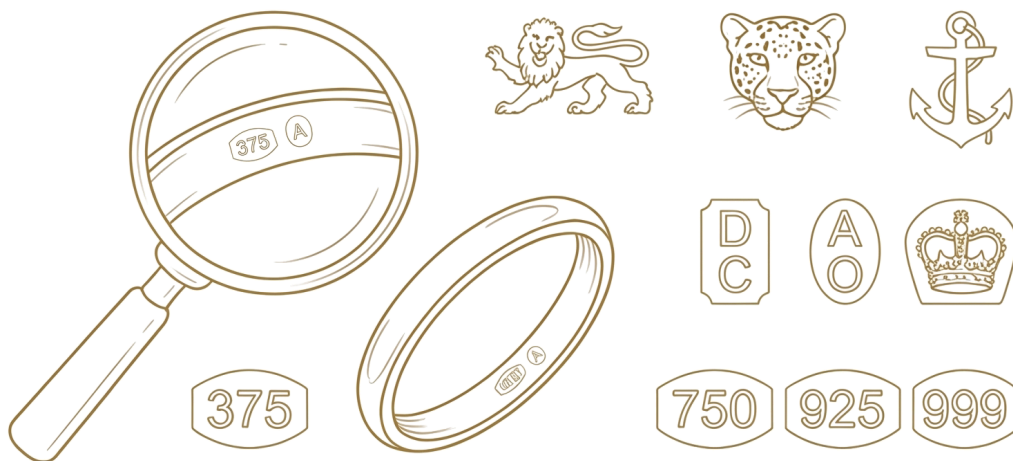


# Gold & Silver Hallmark Identification Guide

How to identify purity marks before valuation

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# Common UK Gold Hallmarks

## Decoding Gold Alloys & Purity

Gold in its pure 24ct (99.9%) form is too soft for functional jewellery. It is alloyed with harder metals such as copper, silver and zinc to create durable jewellery. The percentage of pure gold within the alloy determines the value.

Purity	Hallmark Stamp	Percentage of Pure Gold	Best Use / Common Items
9ct Gold		37.5%	The UK standard for high-street jewellery.
14ct Gold		58.5%	Common in vintage jewellery and European imports.
18ct Gold		75.0%	Luxury wedding bands and engagement rings.
22ct Gold		91.6%	Traditional Asian jewellery and sovereign coins.
24ct Gold		99.9%	Investment bullion bars and pure gold coins.

## The Colour Myth

The colour of gold does not determine its value. Purity (carat) determines the price.

- **White Gold:** Alloyed with palladium or silver and often plated with rhodium.
- **Rose Gold:** Created by increasing the copper content.

### Lois Bullion Fact

Our X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) testing analyses the metal beneath plating, ensuring you are paid for the true gold purity.

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# Common Silver Standards

## Understanding Silver Alloys

Silver value is determined by its 'Millesimal Fineness' — a three digit number representing the parts of pure silver per thousand. For example, sterling silver marked '925' contains 92.5% pure silver and 7.5% strengthening metals.

Standard	Fineness	Typical Items
Sterling Silver 	925	The global standard for jewellery and high quality flatware. Often accompanied by the Lion Passant hallmark in UK silver.
Britannia Silver 	958	Used in premium silverware and modern Britannia bullion coins.
Continental Silver 	800 / 830 / 835	Very common in inherited German, Italian and Scandinavian silverware.
Fine Silver 	999	Investment bars and bullion coins.

*UK sterling silver is commonly identified by the Lion Passant hallmark, a walking lion symbol used by British assay offices.*



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# Plated vs Solid Metals

## What to Look For

One of the biggest frustrations for executors is finding gold-look or silver-look items that contain little or no precious metal. Check your items for the following warning marks.

### Plated Gold Warning Marks

- **GP / GEP** — gold plated or gold electroplated
- **GF** — gold filled
- **RGP** — rolled gold plate
- **925 on gold item** — Vermeil (gold plated sterling silver). We pay for the silver content only.

### Plated Silver Warning Marks

- **EPNS** — electroplated nickel silver
- **EPBM** — electroplated Britannia metal
- **A1 / B / C** — grading marks used on plated cutlery

*Silver-plated items generally have little or no scrap metal value.*

### Solid Gold Jewellery



Consistent gold purity throughout the piece.

### Gold Plated Jewellery



Thin layer of gold over a base metal core.

## Preparing Your Items for Valuation

1. Group by metal and purity — keep 9ct gold, 18ct gold and sterling silver separate.
2. Use the Lois Bullion live price calculator to estimate value.
3. Do not clean items — chemicals can interfere with testing and reduce antique value.

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# The Lois Bullion Difference

We understand that inherited jewellery often carries deep sentimental value. Our valuation process is designed for transparency, security and fairness — ensuring you receive the maximum value for your items without hidden fees or uncertainty.

Feature	Lois Bullion	Others
<b>Price % Paid</b>	94.5% of spot price — market leading payout.	~80% or less — customers lose up to 14.5% of value.
<b>Price Transparency</b>	Shows the actual price paid using our live calculator.	Many competitors show only the volatile spot price.
<b>Payment / Service Fees</b>	None — free same-day bank transfer.	Often includes admin or payment fees.
<b>Valuation Process</b>	In-front-of-you testing using XRF technology.	Items often taken away for testing, creating uncertainty.
<b>Security / Location</b>	Secure permanent premises with private parking.	Pop-up buying events or busy high street counters.
<b>Postal Insurance</b>	FREE* fully insured postal pack up to £2,500.	Basic cover or additional charges for full insurance.
<b>Market Position</b>	Permanent high-volume dealer with excellent Trustpilot reputation.	Temporary pop-up buyers or antique fair valuers.

\* Pre-paid postage of £9 per pack is deducted and included in the final quote.

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# Ready to Sell?

Simple, secure, and transparent valuation options for your inherited jewellery.

## Visit our Birmingham Shop

- ✓ Free parking
- ✓ Secure private valuation
- ✓ Instant bank transfer



## Nationwide postal service

- ✓ Request a free insured gold pack
- ✓ Post items securely
- ✓ Receive same day payment



## Scan for Gold Calculator



Estimate the value of your items instantly.

## Scan for Free Seller Pack



Request a secure postal kit to your door.

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