



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 The registered mark of the company that submitted the article for hallmarking.	Fineness Mark Tells you the precious metal content, expressed in parts per thousand.				Assay Office Mark Tells you which Assay Office tested and hallmarked the article.	
	Silver	Palladium	Gold	Platinum		
	800	2009 500	375 9 carat	850	 London Birmingham Sheffield Edinburgh	
	925 Sterling	950	585 14 carat	900		
	958 Britannia	999	750 18 carat	950		
	999	2010 500	916 22 carat	999		
		950	990			
		999	999			
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	Sterling Silver	Sterling Silver Scotland	Britannia Silver	Palladium	Gold	Platinum
Date Letter	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
International Convention Marks	Silver	Palladium	Gold	Platinum	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* Articles above these weights must be hallmarked	7.78 grams	1.0 gram	1.0 gram	0.5 grams		

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.bis.gov.uk/britishhallmarkingcouncil

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