

8 reasons jewellers should **NOT** use acid to test jewellery



The traditional acid test for gold consists of placing a small drop of a strong acid, such as nitric acid, onto the metals surface.

Most metals fizz or bubble, while precious metals remain unaffected.

Although results are considered reliable for the most part, there are several reasons to stay away from acid and choose an XRF analyser instead.

- 1** Acid does not give you an exact karat count. It rounds to the nearest acid testing solutions. (Eg 14K, 18K etc)
- 2** You must scratch the gold on a stone so you are actually rubbing some of the gold off of the jewellery
- 3** It is difficult to determine if gold plating is present unless you put a deep scratch in the gold
- 4** The solutions are dangerous and unhealthy. You must use extreme care in handling testing solutions and store in a safe place as they're corrosive acids.
- 5** Iron and steel items will pass the stone test for platinum so you must additionally use a powerful magnet to identify these metals
- 6** When testing for silver, the solutions will dull the polishing of the piece, and leave a mark where the acid was placed
- 7** Acid will not tell you what other alloying metal elements make up the composition of the jewellery
- 8** Counterfeiters have managed to develop a stainless steel alloy that will acid test as 18kt white gold, but contains no precious metal at all. Many people have been duped by chains made from this material

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