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The first diamonds were rough and dirty and only gave up their beauty when cut and polished. The diamond on your hand was formed thousands of years ago. In fact, most are 900 million years old or more, with the oldest known diamond being 3.2 billion years old. The beauty of a diamond is that each has its own character. There are no two diamonds that are exactly the same and [black diamond engagement rings are no exception](#)

There are many things to consider when learning how to buy a diamond, and you should never rush into buying a diamond without first doing a little research as to how the diamonds are priced.

The 4 Cs

Everyone has many things to consider when determining how to buy a diamond. You will value your new diamond based on the 4 C rating system. If you want to learn how to buy a diamond, you need to learn exactly what the 4 Cs are, and how each aspect contributes to the value of the diamond.

The 4 Cs are Cut, Clarity, Carats and Color.

How to Buy a Diamond based on Cut: The cut of a diamond describes how an artisan angles the gemstone to best reflect light through the diamond, causing it to sparkle. A quality cut brings out the beauty of a diamond and makes it more valuable, while a poorly cut diamond will sell for less because it isn't as brilliant or shiny.

How to Buy a Diamond based on Clarity: The clarity of a diamond refers to how clear the diamond is when you look through it. A perfect diamond is rare; most have inclusions and flaws, although many cannot be seen without magnification. When looking at a diamond for clarity, look to see if there are dark spots inside the diamond.

How to Buy a Diamond based on Carats: Larger diamonds cost more than smaller diamonds, even if the total carats of the diamonds are the same. If you want to save money, get smaller diamonds for your setting. It is far easier to find small diamonds than large unique diamonds and hence the higher price. When diamonds are cut, they lose about half their size.

How to Buy a Diamond based on Color: The actual color of a diamond is a personal preference. But diamonds that are colorless, known as white diamonds are the most rare and therefore cost the most. Diamonds also come in different shades, including yellow, green, blue and pink, among others. A [black diamond engagement ring is a different matter all together](#).

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