



# 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 hallmark applied by a UK Assay Office is not proof of origin or place of manufacture of an item.

The hallmark of a UK Assay Office (whether applied by a UK Assay Office in its approved locations in or outside the UK) is proof that an item (in all its parts) is of the standard of fineness indicated by the hallmark struck on that item.

Hallmarks applied by UK Assay Offices at their approved locations within the UK are clearly differentiated from those applied by UK Assay Offices in their approved locations outside of the UK (as detailed in the table below).

<b>COMPULSORY MARKS</b> THE HALLMARK COMPRISES THREE COMPULSORY MARKS: A SPONSOR'S MARK, A FINENESS MARK AND AN ASSAY OFFICE MARK.										
<b>Sponsor's Mark</b> The registered mark of the article for hallmarking	<b>Fineness Mark</b> Tells you the precious metal content, expressed in parts per thousand				<b>Assay Office Mark</b> Tells you which Assay Office tested and hallmarked the article.					
	Silver	Palladium	Gold	Platinum	Marks applied in the UK	Marks applied outside of the UK				
	  Sterling  Britannia  	2009      2010    	9 carat  14 carat  18 carat  22 carat    	      	London  Birmingham  Sheffield  Edinburgh	Birmingham				
<b>Exemption Weights*</b> Articles above these weights must be hallmarked	7.78 grams	1.0 gram	1.0 gram	0.5 gram						
<b>OPTIONAL MARKS</b> YOU MAY ALSO SEE OPTIONAL MARKS SUCH AS THE TRADITIONAL FINENESS SYMBOL OR THE DATE LETTER FOR THE YEAR THE ITEM WAS HALLMARKED, OR A CONVENTION MARK.										
<b>Traditional Fineness Symbols</b>	Sterling Silver	Sterling Silver Scotland	Britannia Silver	Palladium	Gold	Platinum				
<b>Date Letter</b>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Common Control Marks (CCM)</b> This mark is used and recognised by countries, including the UK, that are signatories to the International Convention on Hallmarking.	TYPE 1: CCM FINENESS MARKS					TYPE 2 CCM				
	Silver	Palladium	Gold	Platinum						

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.gov.uk/government/organisations/british-hallmarking-council](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/british-hallmarking-council)

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