

"WITH THIS RING..."



At Stella Moissanite, we believe that handmade fine jewellery should be within everyone's reach. We specialise in timeless wedding and engagement ring designs for him and her and offer bespoke design and manufacturing services for all bridal jewellery.

When designing bespoke wedding or engagement rings, couples have an exciting opportunity to explore alternatives to traditional fine diamond jewelry. Moissanites, in particular, have emerged as a credible and compelling alternative that does not compromise on quality or durability.

We know that navigating the ins and outs of the ring buying process can be overwhelming and intimidating - from budgeting to design decisions, metal choices to ring sizes - that is why we offer personalised service and care to each of our customers.

After years of helping hundreds of future fiancés buy their dream rings, this is a summary of the advice I personally give to my customers.

When buying an engagement ring, these are the things to consider to make sure you nail it the first time round.

1. Gemstone quality

While diamonds are a popular choice for engagement rings, they are not the only option available. Wedding jewellery will be worn the most often and the longest of all her jewellery, so choose a hard gemstone, ideally certified from a reputable jeweller, that will withstand daily wear and tear for decades to come.

The only colourless gems I recommend are diamonds, moissanite and white sapphire. These three are between 9 - 10 out of 10 on the Mohs hardness scale, the most durable and scratch resistant options available. They also suit most budgets. Moissanites are lab-created gemstones that possess remarkable brilliance and fire, often surpassing that of natural diamonds. These stones are nearly as hard as diamonds, ranking 9.25 on the Mohs scale compared to diamonds' 10, making them incredibly durable and suitable for daily wear. Their superior refractive index results in a dazzling sparkle that captures the eye, making moissanites an excellent choice for those seeking a stunning and sustainable option for their wedding or engagement rings.

The appeal of moissanites goes beyond their physical properties. Ethically and environmentally conscious consumers are increasingly drawn to them because they are created in controlled laboratory environments, eliminating the ethical and environmental concerns associated with diamond mining. This makes moissanites a responsible choice that aligns with modern values of sustainability and ethical sourcing. One of the most significant advantages of choosing moissanites is their cost-effectiveness. Moissanites are typically more affordable than natural diamonds, allowing couples to invest in larger or higher-quality stones without exceeding their budget. This financial flexibility opens up a world of design possibilities, from elaborate settings to intricate details, ensuring that every ring is a true reflection of the couple's style and story.

Moissanite is perfect for people who like the aesthetics of diamonds, but do not like the ethics, price tag, or marketing behind diamonds. Moissanites are my personal favourite.

2. Ring setting

The setting refers to the design of the metal band and the way the gemstone is held in place. The sky's the limit when it comes to different design options, so consider this:

. Does your loved one have a preferred ring design in mind already?

. Does she have a personal style, such as minimalistic, classic, romantic, retro that you might want to match the engagement ring to?

Design is important because of how it looks, but also because of its functionality. A good ring setting will have good proportions between the band thickness and gemstone sizes.

Resist the temptation to go with temporary ring trends that are not sturdy enough to last - super thin rings and prongs can easily bend and a poorly designed ring with bad proportions will age quickly and become an eyesore.





3. Metal

Platinum is by its nature a “white” metal and requires no maintenance - an annual professional cleaning and polishing will make your ring look like new again. It is more dense than gold, yielding a heavier ring. Some like the weightier feel, others prefer a lighter weight ring they don't feel when wearing - it comes down to personal preference and budget.

Yellow and rose gold require little maintenance, aside from the occasional professional cleaning and polishing. There isn't a big visual difference between 9ct and 18ct gold, though the price difference is significant.

White gold needs to be finished with a rhodium plating to give it a white, silvery luster. This plating can wear off over time and requires the most maintenance of all - an annual professional cleaning and polishing and a replating every 1-3 years to maintain its luster.

Sterling silver is beautiful and can be used for fine jewellery, but is not as durable as platinum and gold in the medium to long term. If you choose to make silver wedding jewellery remember that it requires extra care when worn to protect the gem against prongs bending open.

I recommend that engagement and wedding rings be made from platinum or gold if you can afford it.

4. Budget

The first thing I will ask you during a consultation is your budget. Don't be shy to answer this question, it allows me to make recommendations you are able to afford. A good jeweller will work within your budget and discuss trade offs between gem, metal and setting choices to arrive at the perfect ring for you.

5. Ring size

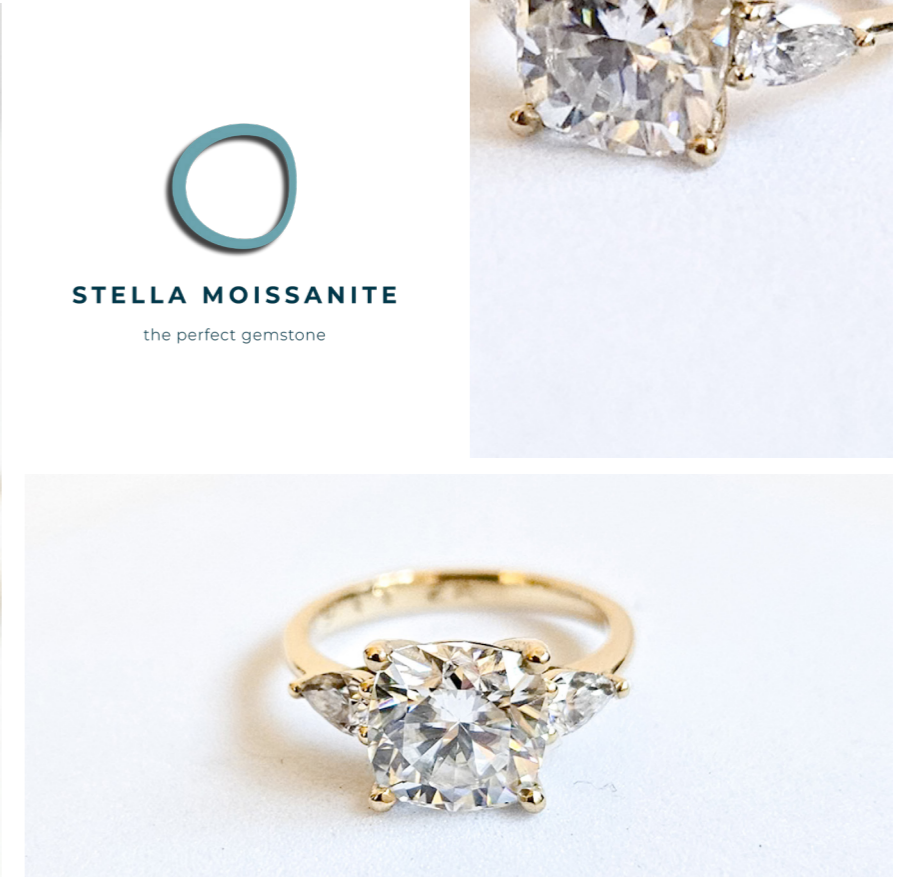
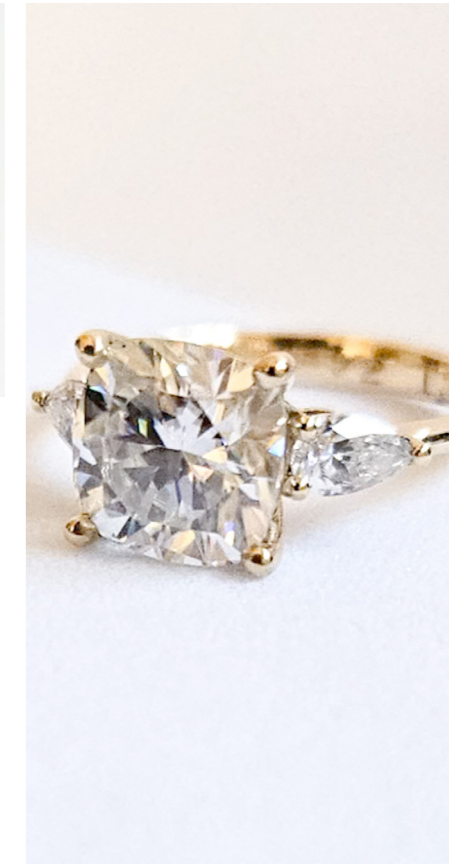
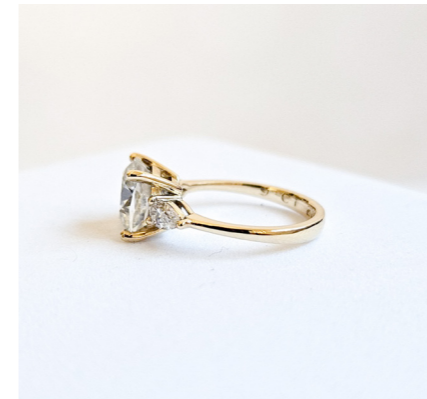
This one can be stressful, but don't worry! There are ways to get it right. Before you order a ring, you need to confirm the ring size. If you want to keep the engagement ring a total surprise, this could be tricky to pull off. Here is what I suggest my customers do:

- . Request a Ring Sizer kit from Stella Moissanite to be sent to you so that you can measure her finger circumference.
- . Want to surprise her? Our Ring Sizer kit also includes a printed size guide so that you can take one of her existing rings, place it on the size circles and determine her ring size in secret.

. If you want to go completely incognito, take one of her existing rings to a jewellery store where they can measure it for you, then make sure to write it down so you don't forget.

6. Design and manufacturing

Once you've decided on a design, your gems and ring size, your ring will be designed in 3D for you to see and sign off on. The 3D render brings your ideas to life, will show you the ring's actual proportions and will allow you to make changes before manufacturing starts.



During our custom manufacturing process, here is what you need to know:

1. We prepare a quote for you based on your requirements. The quote is valid for 7 days. If you need more time, the quote can be extended by request. We do this because prices are worked out based on the day's gold and Dollar exchange rates.
2. Once you've accepted your quote we do a 3D drawing for you to approve.
3. Even if you're only buying an engagement ring for now, we prefer to design your engagement ring and wedding ring together so that you can visualise what it will look like in future.
4. Manufacturing only starts when you've approved the design and you're 101% happy with it.
5. Manufacturing and shipping takes 4-6 weeks from this point.. Occasionally we might need to have a gemstone cut specially for you.
6. The price includes delivery to your door within South Africa with our trusted courier partner, The Courier Guy.
7. All rings with moissanites larger than 0.5ct include a lifetime guarantee and certificate of authenticity as well as a valuation certificate.
8. If you take a wedding ring too, you can enjoy 10% off the wedding ring (we prefer making both rings at the same time to ensure a perfect fit between the two bands, but this is not a must-do at all).
Remember - quality takes time, so prepare to wait 4 to 6 weeks and be sure you factor this into your planning.

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Wedding

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