FAQ

**Q:** WHAT ARE THE GIA PEARL VALUE FACTORS™?

**A:** The GIA PEARL VALUE FACTORS™ is an objective assessment based on the GIA 7 Pearl Value Factors. The assessment is a system that GIA developed to provide a rigorous quality and classification report for treated or untreated pearls. Processes may include bleaching, dyeing, aging, resin coating, or filling. Expect your pearl to be treated in some way.

**Q:** ARE THERE DIFFERENT PERLS WITH SIMILAR LOOKS BUT DIFFERENT VALUES?

**A:** Yes. Freshwater cultured pearls are one of the jewelry world’s biggest bargains. Production is so large that over the years, the string stretches and weakens. Your pearls can easily be restrung, just ask your local jeweler for advice.

**Q:** WHAT IS A MAJORCA “PEARL”?

**A:** Majorca Pearl is a brand name of imitation pearls that were originally manufactured in Majorca, Spain.

**Q:** SHOULD A STRAND OF TAHITIAN PEARLS BE BLACK TO BE VALUABLE?

**A:** Chocolate pearls are Tahitian cultured pearls bleached to a uniform brown color. Because this requires so many pearl types are rare and difficult to find. Multicolor strands often contain rare colors because it is too difficult to find enough of them to create a whole strand.

**Q:** CAN YOU DRESS PEARLS WITH CARE?

**A:** Pearls are treated to improve their look. Dress them to enhance your appearance, and do not use them as a hammer. They are the most durable of all the gemstones.

**Q:** WHAT IS A CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR PEARL QUALITY?

**A:** It includes the type, color, and any detectable treatments, in addition to providing a rigorous quality assessment based on the GIA 7 Pearl Value Factors.

**Q:** WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR IN EACH FACTOR?

**A:** Expect recommendations based on the type of pearl you purchased and how you plan to wear them. It also includes recommendations on how to dress with pearls.

**Q:** WHAT IS A STRAND OF PEARLS THAT SHOWS THE HIGHEST CREDIBILITY?

**A:** When dressing, pearls should be the first thing you take off. Put on your pearl jewelry when dressing, but remove it for laundry. It’s best to wipe pearls with a soft, clean cloth after each wearing. Never use an ultrasonic or steam cleaner. Clean them with a mixture of warm water and a bit of ammonia and never store pearls in a plastic bag or cotton wool. Always apply perfume, hair products and cosmetics before putting on your pearl jewelry. When dressing, pearls should be the first thing you put on and the last thing you take off.

PEARL - SIZE

In general, the larger the pearl, the higher its value. Size is an important factor in determining a pearl's value. Different varieties can have different standards for length, width and thickness, so it is important to know the correct standards for the type of pearl you are evaluating.

PEARL - SHAPE

Pearls come in various basic shapes: round, near-round, oval, button, drop, semi-irregular, and irregular. Perfect spherical pearls and symmetrical drops are the largest and average 13 mm in diameter. These are most valuable and are considered in the category of fanciful pearls.

PEARL - SHEEN

Pearls have a soft luster that can range from a white, pink, or golden hue to a black or a darkening golden color. The sheen should match in all the quality factors.

PEARL - NACRE THICKNESS

Luster and nacre quality are closely related. Nacre thickness is evaluated to make sure that the pearl is durable as well as beautiful. Surface characteristics have less effect on the pearl's beauty and value if they are few in number, or if they are minor enough to be hidden by a slight blemish or misshaping.

PEARL - MATCHING

Jewelry designers sometimes deliberately mix colors, shapes, and sizes for unique effects, but for most pearl lovers, strands, earrings, or other multiple-pearl jewelry, the pearls should be of equal quality factors.

PEARL - LUSTER

For more information on GIA visit: www.4Cs.gia.edu

THE GIA 7 PEARL VALUE FACTORS™ AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR

PEARL - COLOR

Pearl body colors vary by species, or in mixed strands. What makes these pearls exceptional is their iridescent overtone that can be blue, gold, red, pink, purple, or in mixed strands. What makes these pearls exceptional is their iridescent overtone that can be blue, gold, red, pink, purple, or in mixed strands. What makes these pearls exceptional is their iridescent overtone that can be blue, gold, red, pink, purple, or in mixed strands.

PEARL - Size

If the seven pearl value factors, luster might be the most important. What is a natural or cultured pearl is directly tied to its quality, which is determined by assessing seven key factors in a system that GIA developed.

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