

CZ versus Diamond

(From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Cubic Zirconia is so optically close to diamond that only a trained eye can easily differentiate the two. There are a few key features of CZ which distinguish it from diamond, some observable only under the [microscope](#) or [loupe](#). For example:

Dispersion:

With a dispersive power greater than diamond (0.060 vs. 0.044) the more [prismatic](#) fire of CZ can be seen by even an untrained eye.

Hardness:

CZ has an 8.5 to 9.0 on the [Mohs' hardness scale](#) vs. a rating of 10 for diamonds. Among the remainder of the precious gems, ruby and sapphire are rated at 9 while Emerald falls between 7.5 and 8.

Specific Gravity:

CZs are heavyweights in comparison to diamonds; a CZ will weigh about 1.7 times more than a diamond of equivalent size.

Flaws:

Contemporary production of Cubic Zirconia is virtually flawless, whereas most diamonds have some sort of defect, be it a feather, included crystal, or perhaps a remnant of an original crystal face.

Refractive Index:

CZ has a refractive index of 2.176, compared to a diamond's 2.417.

Color

More precisely, the lack of color: Only the rarest of diamonds are truly colorless, most having a tinge of yellow or brown to some extent. By comparison, CZ can be made in most cases entirely colorless: equivalent to a perfect "D" on [diamond's color](#) grading scale.

R.S. Covenant Custom-Cut CZ:

Each CZ used by Covenant is custom-cut in the same manner as the finest diamond.

Each CZ used by Covenant is a fully faceted stone.

Each CZ is polished to perfection; and all have polished girdles.