

POLKI JEWELLERY

TRADITION REIMAGINED FOR TODAY



Polki jewellery has always held a unique place in India's traditions. Uncut diamonds, with their raw brilliance and natural shapes, carry an antique charm that feels regal, intimate, and deeply cultural. Once reserved almost exclusively for brides and heirloom treasures, polki is now undergoing a quiet transformation, evolving from ceremonial grandeur into everyday expressions of style.

From Bridal Vaults to Everyday Wear

The modern consumer is rewriting polki's story. Large, grand sets still define weddings, but there is rising demand for lightweight earrings, pendants, rings and bracelets that can slip seamlessly into our festive, occasional and even regular wear. For younger buyers, this is not just about affordability but about versatility holding onto tradition, intricate craftsmanship, uniqueness, while embracing the ease of modern versatile designs.

Polki Jewellery 2.0

Polki is available in two different categories, making it

accessible across diverse budget preferences. Syndicate Polki, known for its superior radiance, higher lustre, and fewer inclusions, is highly valued but harder to source in larger sizes. In contrast, Kilwas Polki, with slightly more inclusions, is more readily available across sizes and offered at competitive prices making the jewellery more affordable.

Treatments, much like in other gemstones and diamonds, are common in polki too, carried out to improve clarity or appearance. What matters is not their presence but their disclosure. Greater transparency, supported by certification, ensures buyers can make informed, peace-of-mind purchases.

Concerns & Solutions

Yet, as polki finds new audiences, certain challenges need sharper awareness. One is the contamination of lab-grown polki diamonds into natural polki jewellery. Given polki's uncut and flat appearance, detection is not easy with basic screening equipment, making it a challenge for the trade. For a category so deeply tied to

authenticity, this raises a red flag. GSI has taken a lead in development of a process and upgraded screening equipment to resolve this issue, providing peace of mind to the trade.

Another is weight representation. Polki jewellery often uses **laakh'** name derived from the word lac which refers to a traditional resin or wax-like substance used as the base or filling material to set and hold the uncut Polki diamonds securely in jewellery. In the past, uncertainty often clouded the true value of polki jewellery, with questions about how much of the weight was actually gold. The use of lac for mounting the diamonds sometimes obscured the distinction between the amount of precious metal and filler. However, a welcome shift has been taking place in the market for a few years now, as many retailers show transparency and provide clear breakdowns of weight, distinguishing between gold, polki, meenakari, and lac.

Adding to this evolution is the rise of open polki settings, a design that allows light to flow through the diamond, amplifying its brilliance. These settings, free from the need for lac, create a lighter, more refined aesthetic that aligns perfectly with modern sensibilities. As this trend gains momentum, it not only offers a fresh take on traditional polki but also ensures that customers continue to be drawn to and inspired by the timeless beauty of polki jewellery, now more transparent, lighter, and elegantly contemporary. Certification complements this shift. While retailers disclose the breakdown, independent labs play a critical role in verifying authenticity, identifying treatments, and ruling out undisclosed lab-grown content, giving both jeweller and consumer the confidence to stand on common ground.

Craftsmanship and Quality Control

But the true magic of polki lies not just in the stones... it lies in the craftsmanship. Each piece demands precision

in setting, finesse in detailing, and durability in design. Unlike machine-cut and polished diamonds, Polki requires exceptional expertise and years of experience, with traditional artisans meticulously preserving and passing down these skills through generations.

Craftsmanship also extends to the metal that holds the stones. The purity, quality, and structural strength of gold can decide whether a piece endures or deteriorates. Imagine a customer investing in a grand polki necklace... the brilliance of the uncut diamonds matters, but so does the assurance that the craftsmanship meets the highest standards. This is why at GSI, our quality checks do not stop at identification of these diamonds. Our QA services verify different factors in the craftsmanship of the jewellery such as the heavily damaged stones, cloudy stones, uneven silver foiling, flexibility, and finesse offering retailers and consumers a holistic assurance of quality. Because true craftsmanship is a harmony, where stones, metal, and artistry work as one.

Caring for Polki

Equally vital is education on care. Polki jewellery involves intricate craftsmanship and needs proper handling, care and storage. Storing polki separately in special dedicated boxes as suggested by the retailer, avoiding water and perfumes, and gently wiping pieces after wear can preserve their beauty for generations. Retailers who emphasize such after care not only protect jewellery but also strengthen consumer trust.

Polki is no longer confined to the wedding vault; it is stepping confidently into everyday life. For this transition to flourish, artistry must be matched with awareness, transparency, and certification.

At GSI, we see our role not just in grading or reporting, but in strengthening the very foundation of trust, ensuring that polki continues to evolve without losing the authenticity that has made it timeless.



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