



Tips From the Experts

Capitol Craftsman & Romance Jewelers

How to Select Your Perfect Wedding Rings

The most outward symbol of your love for your partner once you've said "I Do" is your wedding band. You put so much thought and effort into the celebration of your wedding day, but it is just as important to put consideration into the ring you will wear and treasure forever. At **Capitol Craftsman & Romance Jewelers** in Concord, New Hampshire, we have helped countless couples select their most precious piece of jewelry since 1979. Here are a few major myths we want to debunk and some helpful hints for you to find your perfect wedding rings.

Myth #1: Your Ring Should be Plain

Shopping for a wedding ring today is much different than ten, fifty, even hundreds of years ago. Did you know that the Romans wore iron wedding bands and the Egyptians wore woven reeds around their fingers to symbolize their unions? There are now endless options for styles of wedding bands and a couple is only limited by their imagination. Popular metals for bands are gold, white gold, platinum and titanium. Each metal has its advantages in terms of scratch-resistance and price. Men typically tend to select plain metal bands, although inscriptions engraved on the inside have been popular. For women, the band is an opportunity to get creative with her jewelry and really add a personal touch. Additional stones in the band can be diamonds or any other precious gemstone that has significance to the couple. Keep in mind when selecting stones how hard they are - you don't want to scratch any stones that aren't as durable as diamonds.



Myth #2: Wedding Bands Have to Match

Since you will be wearing your wedding ring every day, there is no reason to settle for a matching set of bands just because conventional wisdom has said they needed to match in the past. Select a ring that will suit your personal taste as well as compliment your lifestyle. Keep your daily activities in mind when selecting bands. If you or your partner are very active or have a job that demands a lot of manual labor, perhaps a simpler ring with rounded edges would be best.



Another myth is that your band has to match your engagement ring. Many brides select a complimentary style to their engagement ring, but it's ok to go in a different direction if you have a different style in mind. Try on the two rings together to make sure that the fit is comfortable. If you have selected a band that completely diverges from the style of your engagement ring and don't like how they look together, consider moving your engagement ring to your right hand and just wearing the band on your left. It will give your hands a balanced look and will make it easier to leave the engagement ring at home when traveling. Whatever you choose for your bands, they should be as much a reflection of your love for each other as your unique personal styles and tastes.

Myth #3: You Should Solder Wedding Ring and Engagement Ring Together

Just like picking out a band is meant to reflect your personal style, the decision to connect – or solder – your two rings together is also a matter of your taste. The advantage of connecting the rings is the decrease in the chance of misplacing either ring. This will also make it easier at your ceremony to place the ring band-first on your finger during the vows. If you do decide to solder the rings together, be sure to do so at least a week before your big day so that they are ready. Check with your local jeweler on the amount of time they need well in advance. If you decide to keep the rings separate, remember to bring your engagement ring to the jeweler when you pick up your bands to have it shined. You've been wearing it since you said "yes!" There may be some wear-and-tear and you want to make sure it sparkles just as much as your new band for pictures on your wedding day.



General Tips for Selecting Your Rings:

- **Shop together** – The engagement ring was the surprise; this decision should be made together since it impacts what you will both be wearing for the rest of your lives together.
- **Have a budget in mind** – While there are endless rings to select from, pick a metal and stones for your rings that stays within budget: recommended 3% of your wedding budget.
- **Give yourself time** – This is an important piece of jewelry. Don't leave the decision to the last minute since you will need time for sizing and any inscriptions before your wedding day.
- **Sizing** – Your local jeweler can help you get the right fit. This is important to ensure that your most important piece of jewelry doesn't slip off your finger or cut off your circulation. Don't get sized in the morning, after exercise, during menstruation, or if you are extremely hot or cold – all of these things can affect the size of your fingers and could result in an inaccurate size.
- **Maintain your rings** – Not only do you want your rings to stay shiny and the stones to remain intact, but some insurance companies require you to get your ring checked by a jeweler every so often to keep the coverage!

From all of us at **Capitol Craftsman & Romance Jewelers**, we wish you heartfelt congratulations on your engagement and only the best in your lives together.



Photography Courtesy of Capitol Craftsman & Romance Jewelers and Studio One Photography