

## Fracture Filled Diamonds

You may come across diamonds described as "Fracture Filled" (or "Clarity Enhanced," which usually means the same thing).

### **What are "fracture filled" diamonds?**

These are usually diamonds that from their birth had natural inclusions or imperfections visible to the naked eye (technically being of perhaps I1, I2 or I3 clarity). Buyers prefer diamonds without such features, so at some point the stones have had any inclusions "treated" to reduce their appearance. This treatment is similar to what happens if you crack your wind-screen: instead of replacing the entire thing, the affected area is prepared and then filled with a similar material.

### **How can I know if a diamond has been "fracture filled"?**

This is something that the jeweller **should** disclose to you before selling such a diamond. Miltons uses the skills of two NAJ IRV Registered Valuers to assess its diamonds, but most jewellers do not have the benefit of such expertise. We have seen fracture filled diamonds that were not described as such to the buyer, either because the jeweller was not experienced enough to identify it or, very wrongly, chose not to disclose the fact.

"GIA" will not issue lab reports for clarity enhanced diamonds but other laboratories will and if it was an I2 that was made into an SI2 after enhancement, they will put SI2 on the certificate with a footnote that it's been enhanced.

### **How can you tell whether a stone has been enhanced or not?**

The best way to detect fracture filled diamonds is under a gemmological microscope. The filling generally leaves a faint or strong neon colour in the stone, which when observed face up is either invisible or could easily be mistaken for normal, spectral colours. When the diamond is observed face down under a scope however, the neon colours distinctly stand out.

### **Should I consider purchasing a clarity enhanced diamond for an engagement ring?**

The choice is yours, but fracture filled diamonds can offer exceptional value, so long as buyers are properly informed about what they are buying. Some jewellers will try to talk down "clarity enhanced" diamonds, but mainly because the process has made less expensive, good looking diamonds available to consumers. If you are looking for the biggest diamond for your money and can rely on your jeweller to describe his diamonds properly, a clarity enhanced diamond might be perfect for you. Fracture filled stones, properly described, simply give you additional choice.

### **How are fracture filled diamonds priced?**

Our valuers assess a fracture filled stone on the basis of its quality **before** enhancement, plus the cost of such work. This means that you can buy a fracture filled diamond that to the naked eye looks much better quality than it once was, but for a price that would normally get you only a much inferior looking stone. ***The large saving, for many, is very attractive !***