

Frequently asked Questions (FAQ)



1. Q: **What is synthetic diamond?**

A:

- Synthetic diamond is a non-natural, man-made, laboratory grown product having same chemical composition and physical properties as natural diamond.
- Synthetic diamond was first found in 1950s. Since it is the hardest substance, it has been highly used for technological and industrial purposes.
- Nowadays, synthetic diamond is usually produced either by high pressure and high temperature (HPHT) synthesis or chemical vapour deposition (CVD) process.
- Imitation materials, such as cubic zirconia (CZ), moissanite, crystal, are not synthetic diamonds. Their chemical composition and physical properties are totally different from those of a diamond.

2. Q: **What is the difference between natural diamond and synthetic diamond?**

A:

- The major difference between natural diamond and synthetic diamond is their formation processes, thus bringing differences in their intrinsic value.
- Synthetic diamond is in mass production under a control environment in laboratory. It takes just several days to weeks to produce a synthetic diamond.
- Natural diamond is formed millions of years ago in molten rock of the Earth, more than 160 km below the Earth's surface.
- Because of such a special and long process of formation, diamond carries its exceptional intrinsic value of rarity, eternity, love and preciousness, which synthetic diamond does not have.

3. Q: **Can a synthetic diamond be differentiated from a natural diamond?**

A:

Yes, most laboratories can authenticate or identify a synthetic diamond from a natural diamond, though they have the same chemical composition and physical characteristics.

4. Q: **If you want to buy a natural diamond but got a synthetic diamond, are you being protected under the current legislations in Hong Kong?**

A:

Yes, consumers are fully protected under the current legislations in Hong Kong. The current 'Trade Descriptions Ordinance' provides protection for consumers on purchasing diamonds. Chapter 362 clearly defines the definition of natural diamond. It aims to prevent 'false representation and counterfeit goods' to be sold unknowingly. If merchants deliberately conceal, mislead, provide false product information, pose a synthetic diamond as a natural diamond, it is a criminal offence.