



EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
SHOPPING FOR PEARLS ONLINE

5 Easy Steps for Buying the Perfect Pearl Jewelry



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Forward

We believe that each customer deserves the best. The best customer service, the best products and the best attention to detail.

At The Pearl Source, we celebrate the pearl's natural quality and beauty. Every pearl is unique, but they come together to create a universal statement. Over the past 20 years, we have helped thousands of customers find their perfect pearls. Embark on a unique journey that will lead you to your very own pearl jewelry piece – unique, exquisite, and one-of-a-kind.

Save money, time and worries by reading our comprehensive, yet quick guide on how to shop for pearls online.



THE PEARL SOURCE



Understanding Pearl Grading Factors

When shopping for pearls online, understanding pearl grading factors is essential. Prior to our easy step-by-step guide, let's take a look at the main characteristics of a pearl that indicate its value. Learn everything you need to know about Pearl Type, Size, Luster, Shape, Color and Surface and make an informed decision when shopping for pearls online.



1. PEARL TYPE

The value of pearls varies greatly based on their origin. Here's what you need to know about Pearl Type:

- In general, Freshwater pearls are considered to be the least expensive pearl type
- Akoya pearls, also known as saltwater pearls, come with mid-range pricing
- South Sea pearls are the considered to be the most valuable and the most expensive. They comprise of Tahitian pearls which are generally least expensive, while White and Golden South Sea pearls are among the most expensive pearls in the world



From dainty and discreet to impressively large, pearls come in a wide range of dimensions. Pearl sizes range from 2 millimeters in diameter up to 20 millimeters, depending on the type. Here's what your need to know about Pearl Sizes:

2. SIZE

- Freshwater pearls range from 5mm to 13mm, with most designs featuring 7 to 9mm gems
 - Akoya pearls range from 4mm to 10mm, with 7-8mm being the most popular size range
 - Tahitian pearls range from 8 to 20mm in size and are often used for graduated necklaces (with the largest pearls in the front and the smallest in the back)
 - South Sea pearls usually range from 8 to 20mm, with the most popular size being 10 to 12 mm in diameter



3.

LUSTER

In other words, the way the light reflects off the pearl's surface. Here are the top things to know about Pearl Luster:

- In general, the more luster a pearl has, the more valuable and expensive it will be
- Generally, saltwater pearls are more lustrous than freshwater pearls
- High luster is radiant, while low luster means a chalky and dull appearance
- Pearls with high luster have a mirror-like quality, easily reflecting surrounding objects
- Most pearls with a thin nacre will have less luster



Pearls come in many different shapes, with the most common being round, semi-round, drop and baroque, each carrying its own charm. Here's what you need to know about Pearl Shapes:

4.

SHAPE

- Round or spherical pearls are the most popular of all pearl shapes, as well as the most valuable
 - Semi-Round pearls appear round, but feature slight irregularities, which decrease their overall value
 - Drop-Shaped pearls look like teardrops, with pear/tear shapes being the most valuable of their kind
- Baroque pearls are irregular and asymmetrical in shape, but valued for their uniqueness as well as their affordability

5. COLOR

From white to deep, iridescent peacock, pearls come in a stunning array of shades. The most expensive pearls on the market are the South Sea variety, which occur mostly in white and golden shades. The relation between pearl color and value depends on the rarity of the shade, as well as on the depth and saturation of the color. Here are some top things to remember about Pearl Color:

- White pearls are the most classic and popular choice, and the number one pick by most customers
- Pink and peach pearls feature soft, inviting glow and denote serenity and warmth
- Golden pearls come in shades that vary from champagne to 24K gold-like hues
- Tahitian black pearls come in hundreds of different overtones, from silver and copper to peacock and blue-green, exuding exotic appeal and mystique



6.



SURFACE

As the only gems created inside a living creature, pearls come with natural-occurring imperfections. Here are some top things to remember about Pearl Surface:

- Pearls with smooth and clean surfaces are more valuable and expensive than the ones that feature numerous inclusions or imperfections
- The Gemological Institute Of America (GIA) defines the 4 surface classifications as: clean, lightly spotted, moderately spotted and heavily spotted
- Most pearls on the market will have some degree of natural blemishes
- Imperfections may include pits, spots, wrinkles and abrasions





How to Shop Pearls Online: 5 Steps

From finding the right supplier to customizing your pearl jewelry piece, we want to make sure that we provide a great shopping experience for our customers. Follow our next step by step guide designed to make shopping easy, safe and enjoyable.



Step 1 / Find the Right Supplier

The first step when buying pearls online is finding the best source for an optimal shopping experience. Assess the trustworthiness of online retailers and choose wisely by using our list below.



REPUTABLE ONLINE PEARL JEWELRY RETAILER CHECKLIST

- They've been in business for a long time
- They come with a solid return policy (at least 30-day return policy, 100% refunds and an available phone number for refunds)
- They provide fast shipping, ideally free of charge
- They provide excellent customer service and expertise in jewelry
- They have hundreds of thousands of positive reviews on Google, Trustpilot, etc.
- They have been mentioned in reputable media outlets and they have accreditations from the Better Business Bureau and Jewelers of America
- They offer a Certificate of Authenticity with every purchase
- They are based and manufacture their goods in the United States
- They provide clear contact information, including at least one phone number and a Live Chat option
- They provide clear, high resolution images of their products, as well as informational videos
- Their website features informative educational pages available to customers



Step 2 / Decide on Your Budget

Once you make sure to choose a trustworthy retailer, shopping online for pearl jewelry becomes an easy, enjoyable process. The next step: deciding on your budget – and, subsequently, deciding on what to spend your budget on.



Pricing Guide for Different Pearl Types

There is no need to spend tens of thousands of dollars on a pearl jewelry piece you'll love forever. The Pearl Source provides pearls at many different price points. Use our detailed pearl pricing guide below to help you make the best decision.

FRESHWATER PEARLS

Necklaces \$119 - \$2,999

Earrings \$69 - \$799

Bracelets \$89 - \$1499

Pendants \$89 - \$389

Jewelry Sets \$189 - \$639

AKOYA PEARLS

Necklaces \$179 - \$7,999

Earrings \$49 - \$1,379

Bracelets \$139 - \$3,799

Pendants \$99 - \$699

Rings \$329 - \$819

Jewelry Sets \$319 - \$1,899



THE PEARL SOURCE

STEP 2: DECIDE ON YOUR BUDGET

TAHITIAN PEARLS

Necklaces \$499 - \$44,999

Earrings \$149 - \$2,699

Bracelets \$399 - \$2,999

Pendants \$99 - \$2,999

Rings \$279 - \$3,899



WHITE SOUTH SEA PEARLS

Necklaces \$2,999 - \$149,000

Earrings \$199 - \$2,999

Bracelets \$899 - \$6,499

Pendants \$189 - \$2,689

Rings \$359 - \$3,999

HANADAMA PEARLS

Necklaces \$839 - \$7,999

Earrings \$199 - \$899

Bracelets \$449 - \$2,499

Jewelry Sets \$2,139 - \$7,899



STEP 2: DECIDE ON YOUR BUDGET

GOLDEN SOUTH
SEA PEARLS

Necklaces \$499 - \$49,999

Earrings \$199 - \$2,599

Bracelets \$699 - \$2,999

Pendants \$189 - \$2,689

Rings \$359 - \$3,759



Tips on Saving Money When Shopping for Pearl Jewelry



Have a good understanding of the pearl grading factors before purchasing



Choose smaller, higher quality pearls for the same charm and elegance that larger pearls provide



Choose an online retailer that, by cutting out the middleman, can offer you considerable discounts compared to retail prices



Opt for a classic necklace length: the princess lengths are some of the most popular and elegant options



Step 3 / Select Your Jewelry Type

The Pearl Source offers a wide selection of pearl jewelry types, including pearl necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings, pendants and pearl sets.



Pearl Jewelry Product Range



NECKLACES

Designed for the widest range of occasions, The Pearl Source carries a variety of Pearl Necklaces, ranging from the classics to the multicolor, gemstone-adorned and Baroque pearl designs.

Pearl Necklace Styles

- Uniform
- Multicolor
- Baroque
- Single, double and multi-strand



EARRINGS

The Pearl Source features a vast collection of Pearl Earrings, suitable for every occasion, from the office to the after-party and from formal occasions to special events.

Pearl Earring Styles

- Classic pearl studs
- Hoop pearl earrings
- Drop and double drop pearl earrings
- Dangle pearl earrings
- Cluster pearl earrings





PENDANTS

The Pearl Source carries a selection of Pearl Pendants designed for both daytime and nighttime occasions, featuring premium quality chains, often adorned with diamonds.

PEARL PENDANT STYLES

- Solitary pearl pendants
- Multi-pearl pendants
- Diamond-enriched designs



BRACELETS

Created with versatility and timeless elegance in mind, our collection of Pearl Bracelets includes classic designs in a multitude of shades, as well as modern creations featuring multicolor designs and chain embellishments.

PEARL BRACELET STYLES

- Classic single designs
- Double and triple strand designs



STEP 3: SELECET YOUR JEWELRY TYPE



RINGS

From engagement rings, ideal as alternatives to the classic diamonds, to golden and black pearl creations, our collection of Pearl Rings comes in enticing, elegant designs.

PEARL RING STYLES

Classic pearl rings, often enriched with diamonds

Pearl engagement rings



JEWELRY SETS

Classic designs in premium finishes, featuring exquisite pearls: The Pearl Source features a refined selection of Pearl Sets including Freshwater, Japanese Akoya and Hanadama Pearls.

PEARL JEWELRY SET STYLES

2-piece pearl sets including necklace and earrings

3-piece pearl sets including necklace, earrings and matching bracelet



For alternative designs to the classics, make your selection by browsing our Collections Category that features [Tincup](#), [Gemstones](#), [Leather](#) and [Mother of Pearl](#) designs. Pearls are also a classic choice for brides, which is why we offer a special collection of [Bridal Pearl Jewelry](#) pieces designed for brides to be, as well as for the bridal party.

Alternatively, for a personalized jewelry piece, shop the unique [Pearl Moments ©](#) collection. Add and remove pearls yourself and customize your necklace with the desired chain, pearl overtone and number of pearls.



Step 4 / Select Your Pearl Type

FRESHWATER PEARLS



Freshwater pearls are the most abundant pearls on the market today – in fact, they account for more than 90% of the total global pearl production. Colored in pastel hues or white, pink, and peach, these pearls come with a refined subtle glow in every size imaginable.

Choose Freshwater Pearls if:

- You are looking for an affordable option without sacrificing on elegance – Freshwater pearls look similar to Akoya, but can be 50% less expensive
- You are looking for versatile pearls you can wear during the day or night
- You love colored pearls like pink, peach or lavender
- You are looking for a warm glow rather than intense mirror-like luster

AKOYA PEARLS

Akoya Pearls measure 5-10mm on average due to the fact that they grow in smaller commercially farmed oysters. The main characteristic of Akoya Pearls is their mirror-like luster, which is why they are used in a wide range of designs.

Choose Akoya Pearls if:

- You are looking for smaller sized pearls
- You are shopping for pearls with exquisite, radiant luster
- You are looking for pearl jewelry pieces that feature very well-matched pearls in color, size and shape





HANADAMA PEARLS

Literally meaning 'spherical flower', Hanadama pearls are the finest type of Akoya pearls that represent the highest quality gems – no more than 2% of each pearl harvest.

Choose Hanadama Pearls if:

- You are interested in buying the BEST possible quality Akoya Pearls, certified by the Japan Pearl Science Laboratory
- You are interested in pearls subjected to the highest standards of testing concerning nacre quality, overall grade, inclusions, all through optical fibers and x-rays
- You are looking for pearls with exceptional luster and iridescence
- You are looking for a solid investment piece that can maintain its value and beauty through time

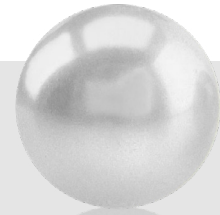


TAHITIAN SOUTH SEA PEARLS

Farmed in the waters of French Polynesia, Tahitian pearls are often called 'black pearls'. Although not available in deep jet black, Tahitian pearls come in a gorgeous range of dark hues, all featuring unmistakable iridescence. Less than 10% of the harvested pearls are round, which means that you can find a great variety of unique off-round and Baroque Tahitian pearls to choose from.

Choose Tahitian Pearls if:

- You are looking for naturally 'black/green' pearls and you love the look of dark, charcoal, silver, peacock, copper and blue-green pearls
- You prefer a jewelry piece with an aura of mystique and exoticism
- You are looking for a great variety of off-round, circle and Baroque pearl shapes
- You are looking for pearls with a thick nacre, since by law, Tahitian pearls must come with a nacre of 0.8mm in order to qualify for export



WHITE SOUTH SEA PEARLS

White South Sea pearls come with an unmistakable opalescence that is impossible to replicate – in addition, they reflect light in a unique way, depending on the surrounding conditions. Often compared to satin, White South Sea pearls have a softer luster compared to Akoya Pearls.

Choose White South Sea Pearls if:

- You are interested in a great range of large and ultra-large pearls
- You are looking for the rarest and most valuable types of pearls on the market, also called the Queen of Pearls
- You are interested in pearl shades like luminescent white or ivory that 'glow from within'
- You are looking for a classic investment piece for yourself and future generations

GOLDEN SOUTH SEA PEARLS

Golden South Sea pearls are also among the largest pearls in the world, due to the extended duration of growth inside the oyster (2-4 years). They come in sizes starting from 8mm and their range of shades includes champagne and brilliant metallic gold.

Choose Golden South Sea Pearls if:

- You are interested in a great range of unique golden pearls that are large in size
- You are looking for glamorous, elegant pearls that are ideal for special occasions
- You are looking for pearls that have mesmerizing luminescence, a very thick nacre, as well as a soft reflection
- You are looking for the most valuable pearls available on the market



Step 5 / Customize Your Jewelry Piece

You decided on your budget, picked your jewelry type, as well as your pearl type and you selected the exact product you want to purchase. Next: customizing your jewelry piece of choice. The Pearl Source gives you the opportunity to create highly personalized jewelry pieces, tailored to your exact specifications.

Here is how you can customize your selected jewelry piece to fit your needs:

1.

Select the Desired Necklace Length

- The 16" Choker length - suitable for any neckline and occasion, tight to the neck
- The 17" to 18" Princess length - ideal for blouses and V-neck shirts, versatile and elegant
- The 20" to 24" Matinee length - suitable for smart-casual and business attire, sits towards middle of chest
- The 36" Opera length - ideal for layering and creating a double strand necklace
- The 51" Rope length - highly versatile and ultra-long, with multiple ways to wear it



2. Choose Your Favorite Clasp

- For bracelets, necklaces, and sets, choose the desired clasp closure
- The standard designs come with no extra fee
- The highly intricate gold clasps and the diamond-enriched clasps come with an additional fee due to the use of premium materials and meticulous workmanship

3.

Select the Desired Bracelet Length

- Sizes start with the standard 6.5" length and go up to 9.0"
- Choose the right size by measuring the total length of an existing bracelet that fits





4.

Select the Correct Ring Size

- Sizes start with the 4.5 size and go up to 9.0 ring size
- Use a plastic or paper ring sizer to determine the correct size of the ring

5.

Choose Your Desired Gold Color

When available, choose your preferred gold tone, including premium white and yellow gold



6.



Pearl Overtone

Pearl overtones include white, rose, ivory and black



7.

Pearl Size and Quality

- The Pearl Source offers pearls graded from AA+ to AAAA
- Pearl grading depends on the following factors: surface, luster, nacre and shape
- Extra fees apply if choosing a higher-grade pearl and size





The Next Step

From corner offices to coffee shops, the right pair of pearl earrings works for every occasion. And from power suits to cocktail dresses, pearl necklaces are the epitome of style. Whether you are interested in shopping for a special occasion, curating a new wardrobe for a new job, on the lookout for anniversary gifts or wish to commemorate her hard work with a gift she'll cherish forever, we have the perfect pearls for it. They take time to create. They stay hidden until they're ready, but they reflect pure radiance and light. They're warm, they're delicate, and they're perfect for every occasion.

Thank you for reading our guide on Everything You Need to Know About Buying Pearls Online. For any questions you may have, our customer service specialists are always here to help. Discover our wide range of products and enjoy a great shopping experience at The Pearl Source!

