

Mikimoto Pearl Grading System

Mikimoto pearls maintain the strictest quality grading standards and are evaluated based on the following criteria:

LUSTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Luster is the amount of light a pearl reflects from its surface glow and the deep mirror-like reflection of its inner light.• Only the highest quality pearls with the most luminous luster carry the Mikimoto name.
SURFACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subtle blemishes and tiny marks are part of a pearl's natural texture and proof of its natural origin.• Fewer surface imperfections denote a higher quality, more valuable pearl.
COLOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pearls vary widely in color based on the type of oyster that produces them.• While color choice is a matter of personal preference, always look for rich color that's evenly distributed throughout the pearl.
SHAPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Of the many shapes available, nearly perfectly round pearls are the rarest and most valuable.• With Mikimoto's South Sea cultured pearls, unique shapes like teardrop, oval and baroque are also popular.
SIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pearls are measured in diameter increments of millimeters (mm).• While size does not affect the quality of cultured pearls, it does affect the price because large pearls are more difficult to cultivate, and their rarity makes them more valuable.

Mikimoto Pearl Grades

Based on the criteria mentioned above, each Mikimoto pearl is assigned one of the following grades:

GRADE	LUSTER	SURFACE
AAA	Exceptional, mirror-like reflection	Minimally blemished surface
AA	Superb, clear reflection	Very slightly blemished surface
A+	Very good, clear reflection	Slightly blemished surface
A	Good, clear reflection	Slightly blemished surface

Mikimoto Pearl Authenticity

You can identify Mikimoto jewelry by the brand's trademark. Every piece of jewelry will feature either the outline of an oyster or the MIKIMOTO name engraved on its clasp, ring shank or earring back. Mikimoto strands and cultured pearl bracelets are also fitted with a signature M-circle logo charm.