

## Color/Overtone

A pearl's main color or body color can be white, cream, gray, black, yellow, etc. Often, a pearl will also display an overtone, a translucent secondary color on its surface. Beautiful pearls can be found in virtually any color/overtone.

## Comments and Conclusion

The comments and conclusion sections of the report include the identification and, if applicable, treatment(s) and other notes relevant to the pearl.

## Environment

Pearls can be grown in a variety of freshwater or saltwater environments.

## Luster

Luster is the reflective quality or brilliance of the pearl's surface. It is measured on a scale ranging from poor to excellent.

## Matching:

In pearl strands or jewelry, matching refers to the coordination of the pearls — in aspects such as color and shape — to create an aesthetically pleasing piece. It is described on a scale from poor to excellent.

## Measurements

Round pearls are measured by their diameter, in millimeters. Other pearls are measured by length x width x depth. Measurements of pearl strands or jewelry are described as a range, average, or graduation from maximum to minimum.

## Mollusk

Pearls are produced by oysters, mussels, and other mollusks.

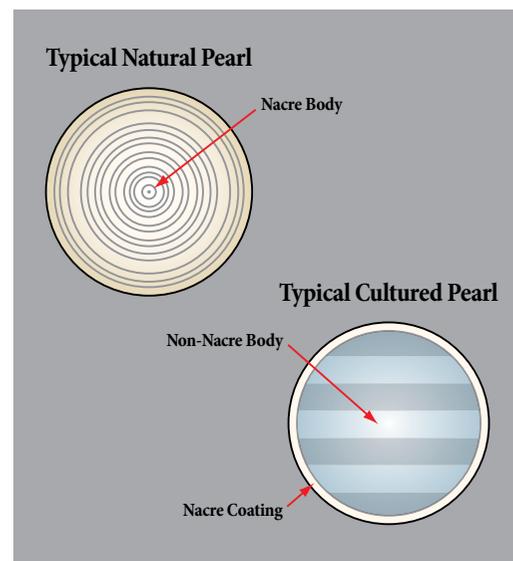
## Nacre Thickness

The depth of a pearl's nacre — the iridescent coating over its nucleus — can impact its luster, durability, and quality. On bead-cultured pearls, thickness is rated as thin, medium, or thick (which is preferred).

## Origin

### Natural or Cultured

A natural pearl is created when nacre forms around a microscopic irritant, without human interaction. A cultured pearl is initiated by the implantation of a nucleus (a shell bead or piece of mantle tissue) by a pearl farmer. While natural pearls are coveted for their rarity, more common cultured pearls — the classic South Sea, lustrous Akoya, and colorful Tahitian, for example — can be quite stunning.



### Nacreous or Non-nacreous

Nacreous pearls appear translucent, due to their fine, plate-like crystalline layers of calcium carbonate (mostly aragonite) and organic material (conchiolin). Non-nacreous pearls are made of coarser crystals (mostly calcite), so they have a more porcelain-like look.

## Shape

Shape is the form of a pearl. Shapes include round, off-round, oval, drop (pear-shaped), button (with a flat side), circle (with rings/ridges), semi-baroque (irregular), and baroque (non-symmetrical and irregular).

## Surface

The outermost layer of a pearl will inevitably contain bumps, wrinkles, minor cracks, and/or chips. Surface quality rates the significance of these irregularities — their size, visibility, etc. — on a scale from heavily blemished to clean (which is preferred).

## Treatments

A pearl's appearance can be enhanced through a variety of treatments, such as dyeing, irradiation, or heating to change its color.

## Weight

Depending on pearl type, weight can be measured in grams, carats (.2 gram), or grains (.065 gram).

## X-Ray Fluorescence

Fluorescence refers to a pearl's capacity to emit a visible light when some of its elements react to x-rays. Fluorescence is noted for identification purposes, and its presence can help to confirm a pearl's cultured origin.