

The Platinum Facts

Facts you may not have known about platinum

All the platinum ever mined from the beginning of time would fit into a typical living room.

The coronation crown of the Queen Mother was made from platinum.

The Kohinoor (Mountain of Light) diamond, part of the crown jewels is set in platinum.

Around two tonnes of ore has to be mined to obtain enough platinum to make a ring.

Platinum's melting point is almost double that of gold.

Platinum is used in the hard discs of most PC's to improve capacity and durability.

Platinum is resistant to attack from most chemicals.

The only material suitable for the electrode in heart pacemakers is platinum.

Platinum is used to make nitrogen fertilisers.

1 gram of platinum can be made into wire 2 kilometres long.

Half of the platinum mined in the world in 2001 was made into jewellery.

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor had platinum wedding rings made by Cartier.

There is no platinum in a platinum record; it's only plastic dipped in silver.

It takes 8 weeks to refine pure platinum from the ore extracted from the earth.

Spanish Conquistadors discover a white metal in the rivers of Ecuador. Not realising its superb qualities, they name it contemptuously "platina" - "little silver".

On the introduction of the metric system, the standard metre and the standard kilogramme are both measured in Platinum.

The German geologist Dr. Hans Merensky discovers the largest deposits of platinum ever found - west of Johannesburg, South Africa.

A trend toward white jewellery in the West encourages consumer interest in white gold fashion jewellery. Platinum enjoys increased sales in this sector due to dissatisfaction with the quality of white gold, prone to colour change as the rhodium plate wears away.

In 1999 the hallmarks for platinum were extended by the Assay Offices of Great Britain to include platinum purities of 85%, 90% and 99% in addition to the traditional orb in the pentagon denoting the jewellery is 95% pure.