



## The Ring – Part 4: All that glitters

February 26, 2010 by Niki

Ok, so we have looked briefly at how to [choose the ring design](#), focussed on [diamonds](#), and looked at ways to make the ring more personal, so today we will look at gold...

The best quality rings will be gold or platinum, and like diamonds there are many environmental issues brought to the fore.

Open pit mining uses cyanide to blast open the rock revealing the precious metals. Not only do these large mines make a massive scar on the landscape, but the poisonous chemicals eek into the ecosystem of the area. According to [Friends of The Earth](#), to make a single gold ring, 5 tonnes of water must be used and 20 tonnes of mine waste created.

[CRED jewellery](#) is made using platinum and 18ct fair trade gold sourced by [Oro Verde](#), the world's premier supplier of ethically sourced precious metals that is produced without mercury or cyanide. As with their gold, CRED's precious stones are traceable from mine to retail.



Although there is currently no official certification for Fairtrade gold, CRED are working closely with the [Fairtrade Foundation](#) to get something going...

For details of Ethical Gold Retailers and Suppliers visit [www.nodirtygold.org](http://www.nodirtygold.org)

But you don't need to have gold fresh out of the mine.

### Recycled gold



In the previous post on vintage we also thought about 'upcycling' old rings. Following the idea of melting down your own jewellery to make the rings, there are also companies who exclusively use recycled metals.

Ethical jewellers [Leblas](#) make all their jewellery from recycled silver or gold as they have not found a supplier of gold that meets

their strict ethical and environmental policy. Their engagement ring collections are set with conflict-free Canadian diamonds. The jewellery is all made by skilled artisans in Spain, and designed to encourage use of traditional techniques and pass these on through apprenticeships.

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