Protecting the Corners of Your Princess Cut Diamond

A princess cut diamond is prized for its clean lines and brilliant, step-like facets. Yet its square or rectangular shape creates four pointed corners that are more exposed than the rounded edges of a round brilliant. Those corners are not just a design detail; they are the most vulnerable parts of the stone. A sharp knock, a careless storage choice, or even daily wear can chip or fracture them. Understanding how this happens and what you can do about it keeps your ring looking its best for years.

Why the Corners Are at Risk

In a princess cut, the corners meet at a 90-degree angle and are often left without a protective bezel or V-shaped prong. The diamond's girdle, the narrow band that separates the crown from the pavilion, is thinnest at these points. When the ring is bumped against a hard surface, the impact concentrates on the corner, not the stronger edge. Over time, even small repeated forces can cause a tiny nick that grows into a visible crack. The risk is highest in settings that leave the corners exposed, such as a four-prong setting where each prong grips a side rather than the tip.

Everyday Actions That Create Trouble

Many habits that seem harmless can put pressure on those pointed corners. One of the most common is wearing the ring during physical activities. Gardening, weightlifting, moving furniture, or even typing on a hard desk can produce the kind of sharp contact that weakens a corner. Another is storing the ring loosely in a handbag or a pocket where it rubs against keys, coins, or other jewelry. Metal against diamond may not damage the metal, but the diamond's corner can chip from the repeated friction.

Cleaning methods also matter. Using a rough cloth or a brush with stiff bristles can scratch the metal setting, but more importantly it can snag a loose prong and put leverage on the diamond. When a prong lifts slightly, the corner loses its support and becomes more likely to fracture during normal wear. Even ultrasonic cleaners, which are generally safe for diamonds, can pose a risk if the stone already has a small inclusion or a thin girdle. The vibration may widen an existing hairline crack without you noticing until the damage is done.



How Princess Cut Ring Care Addresses These Risks

Princess cut ring care starts with awareness of the setting. A bezel setting that wraps around the entire diamond offers the best corner protection, but many people prefer the open look of prongs. If your ring uses prongs, check them regularly for wear. A loose prong can be tightened by a jeweler before it leads to a lost stone. You can test the prongs yourself by gently pressing on each one with a soft toothbrush handle or a clean finger. If any prong moves or feels sharp, it needs attention.

Cleaning the ring properly also reduces risk. Use a mild soap and warm water, and scrub with a soft toothbrush to reach the crevices around the corners. Rinse thoroughly and dry with a microfiber cloth. Avoid paper towels or tissues, which can leave lint that gets caught under the

prongs. For deeper cleaning, a steam cleaner can be effective, but only if the diamond is securely set and you are certain there are no loose prongs. If you are unsure, have the jeweler inspect the ring first.

Jewelry insurance is another layer of protection. While it does not prevent damage, it covers the cost of replacing a chipped corner or a lost diamond. Policies vary, so read the fine print about coverage for accidental damage versus wear and tear. Some policies require an appraisal and photographs before they take effect, so arrange that soon after purchase.

Storage and Handling Habits

How you store the ring when you are not wearing it matters as much as how you clean it. A lined jewelry box with individual compartments keeps the diamond from touching other pieces. If you travel, use a padded travel case or a soft pouch. Never drop the ring into a handbag or a drawer where it can slide around. Even a short car ride can subject the diamond to enough vibration to loosen a prong if the ring is bouncing against a metal buckle or a key.



When you take the ring off, place it in a consistent spot, such as a small dish on the nightstand or a dedicated ring holder. Avoid putting it on the edge of a sink, a countertop, or a windowsill where it can be knocked off. The same goes for gym lockers and public restrooms. A diamond lost down a drain is a costly mistake that could have been avoided with a simple habit.

What to Do If a Corner Chips

If you notice a small chip or a rough spot on a corner, do not ignore it. A jeweler can often polish the damaged area and re-cut the facet slightly to remove the chip. This process reduces the carat weight by a tiny amount, but it saves the diamond from further cracking. In some

cases, the jeweler may recommend resetting the diamond in a bezel to protect the remaining corners. The sooner you act, the more options you have.

Prevention is always better than repair. A routine inspection every six months by a professional jeweler catches loose prongs, worn settings, and hairline cracks before they become emergencies. Most jewelers offer this service for free or for a small fee as part of a cleaning appointment. Keep a record of the inspection dates and any advice the jeweler gives you about the condition of the setting.

Balancing Beauty and Durability

Princess cut diamonds are not fragile, but they require more attention than a round brilliant because of those four corners. The trade-off is a modern, geometric look that many people find striking. By understanding the specific risks and adjusting your daily habits, you can enjoy the beauty of the cut without worrying about damage. Princess cut ring care is ultimately about small, consistent actions: checking prongs, cleaning gently, storing separately, and wearing mindfully. These steps do not take much time, but they make a real difference in how long the diamond stays intact.



Think of it as a partnership between you and your jeweler. You handle the daily care, and the jeweler handles the annual inspection and any repairs. Together, you keep the diamond’s corners sharp and its brilliance undimmed. With the right habits, a princess cut ring can remain a cherished piece for a lifetime.