What to Check Before Selling Your Old Jewellery in Cape Town

Getting Your Jewellery Ready for a Buyer

Selling old jewellery can feel like a mix of sentiment and practicality. You might have pieces tucked away that no longer suit your style, or broken items you kept meaning to repair. Before you walk into a jewellery buyer in Cape Town, a little preparation goes a long way. Knowing what to check helps you feel confident in the transaction and ensures you get a fair evaluation.

The process is not complicated, but it does reward a methodical approach. This guide walks through the key points to consider, from understanding what you own to handling the final payment. Think of it as a friendly checklist you can refer to when you are ready to sell.

Know What You Have: Metal Type and Hallmarks

The first step is identifying the metal. Most jewellery carries a hallmark - a small stamp that indicates the purity of the metal. For gold, common hallmarks include 9ct, 14ct, 18ct, or 22ct. These numbers tell you the percentage of pure gold in the piece. A 9ct stamp means the item is 37.5 per cent gold, while 18ct is 75 per cent gold. Silver items often show 925 or 800, and platinum may be marked 900 or 950.

Take a close look at the inside of rings, the clasp of necklaces, or the back of earrings. A magnifying glass or jeweller's loupe helps read small stamps. If you cannot find a hallmark, the piece may still be valuable, but it can be harder to confirm the metal content. A reputable jewellery buyer in Cape Town will test the metal, but knowing what stamps are present gives you a starting point for understanding its worth.

View the location on Google Maps

It is also worth checking for any marks indicating the manufacturer or designer. Some pieces from well-known houses carry a maker's mark, which can add value beyond the metal. Even if the name is not familiar to you, a buyer may recognise it and adjust the offer accordingly.

Assessing Gemstones and Diamonds

If your jewellery contains gemstones or diamonds, their quality matters. You do not need to be a gemologist to make a basic assessment. Look at the stone's clarity with a clean eye or a simple loupe. Are there visible chips, scratches, or inclusions? How is the colour - does it look vibrant or dull? For diamonds, the classic "four Cs" (carat, cut, colour, clarity) influence value,

but you may not have the grading report. That is fine. A buyer will evaluate the stone during the process.

Be aware that some gemstones are treated to enhance colour or clarity. Heat treatment, for example, is common for sapphires and rubies. While this does not necessarily lower value, it can affect the price. If you have any documentation about the stones, such as a certificate from a gem lab, keep it handy. It adds transparency and can support a higher offer.

One practical tip: clean the piece gently before showing it. Use a soft cloth and mild soapy water. Dirt can hide flaws or make a stone look duller than it is. A clean item presents better and allows the buyer to see exactly what they are evaluating.

Consider Craftsmanship and Condition

The way a piece is made also plays a role. Jewellery that is handcrafted or shows intricate detailing may command more than a simple mass-produced design. Look at the setting of stones - are they secure? Are the prongs worn or bent? Check the chain for kinks or weak spots, and examine clasps for wear. A piece that is in good structural condition is easier for a buyer to resell, which can reflect in the offer.

On the other hand, broken items are not worthless. Many jewellery buyers in Cape Town purchase pieces for the metal and stones, not just the finished item. A broken chain or a ring with a missing stone still has scrap value. The key is to be honest about the condition when you present it. Trying to hide a defect usually wastes everyone's time.

If you have the original box or any paperwork, bring it along. Original packaging and receipts do not dramatically change the metal value, but they can add a layer of authenticity and trust. For luxury watch brands or designer jewellery, the original box and papers can significantly affect the offer.

Getting a Fair Valuation

Before you sell, it helps to understand how valuations work. A jewellery buyer will typically weigh the item, test the metal purity, and assess any stones. They may use electronic testers, acid tests, or a combination of methods. The offer you receive is based on the current market price for gold or other precious metals, minus a margin for the buyer's costs and profit.

Do not expect to receive the full retail price you paid when you bought the piece. Jewellery retail includes markups for design, branding, and overheads. When selling, you are receiving the commodity value of the materials plus a small premium for desirable design or brand. That is normal across the industry.

A practical step is to get a sense of the current gold price before you go. You can check the spot price online - it changes daily. While the buyer will use the same market data, knowing the ballpark figure helps you gauge whether an offer is reasonable. For diamonds and coloured gemstones, pricing is less straightforward, so trust a reputable buyer's expertise.

Anthony Alan Gold Buyers Watches and Jewellery is a Cape Town gold buyer that offers evaluations and purchases of gold, diamonds, jewellery, luxury watches and Krugerrands. Their process is straightforward: you bring in your items, they assess them in front of you, and they make an offer. There is no obligation to sell, so you can walk away if you are not comfortable.

Privacy and Secure Payment

When selling jewellery, you are handling items of value, so privacy and security matter. Choose a buyer who operates from a physical premises, not a pop-up or an online-only service that feels vague. A reputable jewellery buyer in Cape Town will have a proper shop or office where you can discuss the transaction discreetly.

Ask about payment methods before you agree to sell. Most buyers offer cash, electronic transfer, or a bank cheque. Decide what works best for you. If you prefer a bank transfer, confirm how quickly the funds will reflect in your account. Some buyers pay immediately, while others take a day or two for larger amounts.

You should also receive a receipt or a transaction record. This document should list the items sold, the weight, the purity, and the amount paid. It is your proof of the transaction and useful for your own records. Do not be shy about asking for it - any professional buyer will provide one without hesitation.

Lastly, consider bringing a friend or family member along if it makes you feel more at ease. Selling personal items can feel emotional, and having someone with you can help you stay objective. There is no rush. Take your time to understand the offer and ask questions if anything is unclear.

Bringing It All Together

Preparing to sell old jewellery does not need to be stressful. By checking hallmarks, assessing stones, noting the condition, and understanding how valuations work, you put yourself in a stronger position. You walk in informed, which makes the conversation with the buyer clearer and more productive.

Whether you are clearing out a jewellery box or turning unused pieces into cash, a methodical approach helps you feel good about the outcome. And if you are in Cape Town, you have

access to experienced buyers who can guide you through the process with transparency and respect.

For a professional evaluation, you can visit Anthony Alan Gold Buyers Watches and Jewellery at Ste 801, The Studios, 4 Loop St, Cape Town City Centre, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa, or call them on +27 79 480 6137. They are a Cape Town gold buyer offering evaluations and purchases of gold, diamonds, jewellery, luxury watches and Krugerrands.