

## HOW VALUABLE IS MY DIAMOND?

A diamond's resale value is determined by its cut, original value and popularity.

### FAIR/\$

- **Fancy shapes.** Pear, heart and especially marquise shapes are not in high demand, said Pessis.
- **Older cuts.** Diamonds older than 1940 may have old mine or European cuts with less desirable facets and proportions. Some collectors, however, prefer them.

### BETTER/ \$\$

- **Princess and square radiant cuts.** They're still good, but they haven't held their value as much as round stones, said Jimmy Pessis, owner of Continental Diamond.
- **A stone with a certificate from the European Gemological Laboratory (EGL) or International Gemological Institute (IGI).** They are more lenient in grading, making them less valuable, said Marjory Torgerson, store manager at Be Iced in Edina.

### BEST/\$\$\$

- **Round cuts.** They never go out of style and they're easily the most popular-selling cut, said Patrick Nelson, diamond buyer at JB Hudson.
  - **Great cut.** A quality cut maximizes brilliance.
  - **The bigger the better.** Larger stones weighing 1 carat or more are easier to sell because of demand. Most couples buy  $\frac{3}{4}$  carat or more.
  - **A certificate from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) or the American Gem Society (AGS),** both respected labs, establishes the diamond's value.
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