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## Celtic engagement rings ireland

Your engagement ring is not just a symbol of your union. It is also an heirloom in the making, a precious piece of jewelry that can be passed on through generations—as long as you take good care of it. Even if you can (err, should) already know to avoid opening boxes or trying to pop bottle tops with your sparkler (trust us, people try), there are some unexpected, everyday activities that can put your ring in danger way. We consulted with experts Debra Dolphin and Elizabeth Woolf-Willis for their best advice on what to do and what to avoid keeping your ring lovely for a lifetime. Meet Expert Debra Dolphin is a jewelry expert, graduate gemologist, and customer service manager at Blue Nile, an online diamond and engagement ring retailer. Elizabeth Woolf-Willis is certified gemologist and marketing coordinator for Simon G. and Zeghani Jewelry. Any activity that involves impact on your hands (from contact sports like volleyball to weightlifting) can bend or break the pins that hold your stone in place, causing it to fall out of its setting. Similarly, experts warn against wearing it during water activities such as swimming, water skiing or boating, as it is much easier for your ring to slip off when your hands are wet. I've heard so many stories of rings getting lost in lakes and seas, Woolf-Willis says. Even walking or jogging can put your ring in contact with the elements. If you work out a lot, consider a rubber or silicone ring that you don't have to worry about at all. According to Dolphin, ordinary cleaning materials won't damage your diamond (delicate beads are another matter). During the cutting process, the stones are cleaned by boiling in acid. It makes them impenetrable to chemicals, she says. Household cleaners such as bleach and common chemicals, such as acetone nail polish remover and chlorine from pools, can also erode alloys in precious metals. So to be sure, it makes sense to take off your ring while cleaning (just be sure to put it in a safe place in the meantime). The same is true if you bathe, as chlorine can seriously damage your gold or platinum band. Even if you don't wear your ring while exercising, normal daily activity—says, fabric hooks—can loosen pins, putting your stone at risk of falling out. Our experts recommend regular checks of an experienced jeweler every six to 12 months to make sure the settings are safe. You can get your rings professionally cleaned at the same time. But if you want to clean your ring yourself, our experts recommend using mild soap, warm water, and a soft-bristle toothbrush or a solution of five parts water, one part ammonia (for diamonds). And remember never to use silver cleaners on something that isn't silver, says Woolf-Willis. Having your ring insured in case something happens is a good idea too. It is a moment when your significant others get the admiring look on their face, asks tremulously: Do you marry me? and then proffers a box of the worst ring you've ever seen. And now it's become something you feel sorry for even thinking: I don't like my engagement ring. What do I do? You're not alone. Many before you and many after that you will find themselves in the exact same situation, do not want to hurt their fiancé's feelings but also do not want to wear a ring they do not like every day. However, there are ways of dealing with this delicate situation with grace. Here's what you can do. If it's not love at first sight, give it a few days. Wear the ring around and see if it grows on you. It may not be perfect, but that doesn't mean it can't be something you grow to fall madly in love with. First impressions, even with rings, can be tricky and misleading. Before you make a huge stench over it, give it some time. It is also good to find out why he or she chose this particular ring. Maybe there's a story behind it or it's similar to the one their mother or grandmother wears. Maybe when they saw it, it made him or her feel a certain way. Sometimes that story will be powerful enough to understand their reasoning and change your feelings towards the ring. If you still don't like your engagement ring, it's time to have a conversation. Every time you look at it, the voice in your head will remind you how much you hate it – and it will cause resentment and irritation, explains relationship expert Dana Corey. If you are constantly reminded of your disappointment in their choice, it will color your relationship. Meet expert Dana Corey is a relationship expert with over 30 years of experience helping couples navigate the trials of their engagement. Raise the subject slowly and privately. Like any sensitive topic, you want to choose a time when you feel open and loving, not when you are in a disagreement or feeling upset. It's one of those intimate, vulnerable conversations that will set the tone of your marriage for the next few decades, Corey says. Admit the love and thought that went into your fiancé's choice, and explain that it is not your intention to hurt their feelings. If your partner bought the ring new, go back to the jeweler together. You can keep the center stone and have it changed to a different setting, or spend the afternoon trying on rings together until you find a whole new style that you both love. Remember to be respectful of their budget when you do that, and ask him or her to work with jewelers to ensure the options you are considering are something you can afford. Is the ring a family heirloom of some kind? Find out if you can get the heirloom ring restored. It may involve designing a new ring to hold a family stone, using metal from the original ring to create a band, or buy a one enhancer (which fits tightly around an engagement ring to add heft, and often additional sparkle, to the original setting) to transform a more simple ring into a design that is more your style. Not sure if you can bring it up at all? Don't lose what the engagement ring represents. It's a meaningful gift that you should cherish both ways, and when it's time to shop for wedding bands, you might just be able to find something to help transform it into the ring of your dreams. Honesty is the best policy ... unless you are just disappointed that the stone is too small or poor quality. Because it's like saying, 'You haven't made enough money. You would never want your fiancé to feel that their choice was inadequate in that regard—surely they bought you the most beautiful ring they could afford, so if everything else about the ring works (metal, stone shape, style) then hold your tongue. Remember, you're going to marry the person, not the ring. The question I want to ask is, 'Are you determined to create a happy, harmonious life together?' Corey says. If nothing can be done, or you have upset your fiancé, breathe, apologize for being materialistic, and get over it. Or reconsider your motives, and be honest with yourself about whether you are ready for marriage. Real chicks have been in this exact situation before. We asked what advice they had for what to do if you don't like your engagement ring. Here are their stories. I hated the ring in the long run, but slept on it before I told my fiancé. I didn't want to hurt his feelings, but I also didn't want to live with anything for the next 40 years that made me shudder. So I said, 'Honey, I can't wait to be your wife. But I hope I can always be honest with you. He said of course, so I ventured, An engagement ring is something I've dreamed of all my life and I think I've designed it in my head for the last baguette. He knows me so he jumped in, 'Honey, let's give it back and pick one you love together.' — Lisa I had already ruined the surprise that he was going to propose when we were on a romantic spa weekend (another long story). So we decided to mutually write down why we wanted to marry the other person. Unfortunately, I chose the wrong time to detox from coffee and suffered a massive migraine. Finally, I pulled myself together enough to make our little promises, then he gave me this ridiculous engagement ring—a too small, tiny gold and silver ribbon that he got at a hashish store. The band had other people's names engraved inside and just fit my little nose. Lucky for him, I don't care about jewels. And lucky for me, he's been shining out with my emotional self for 23 years now. Nancy, I love jewelry. There really was nothing wrong with the ring... after all, how could any woman object to a of any kind? I simply explained that for something I intended, carry every day for the rest of my life, it needed to be very, very special and unique to me. He agreed. We created it together with my favorite designer. My rings are flat out of gorgeous. Kristin My husband is a romantic and goes for the big gestures. We dated for two years before he popped the question, but it wasn't long enough for him to hone in on my personal style. The ring was not gruesome—a lovely center diamond surrounded by a vortex of smaller baguette and marquise-cut stones. But I had hoped for exactly the opposite—an understated, classic solitaire that I could later pair with a band of smaller diamonds. To say I was monumentally disappointed isn't saying enough, but I kept it to myself—and have been for 15 years. The bottom line is, this is the man I wanted to marry and he took the step to get involved for me. We've already gone through hell and back in our short years. Death came knocking on our door; we stared it down and we're still here, still together. I still don't like the ring. But I love the man who gave it to me with everything I have and everything I have – something I'm reminded of every time I look at cluster\*\*\* on my left ring finger. Judith I got a \$10 Woolworths plastic ring from my husband. We were both too poor at the time, but we're still married 35 years later. On our fifth birthday, he bought me the most beautiful real ring that I also love. Mate is more important than bling. If he is not cheap, thoughtless, disregards your preferences, is arrogant or controlling, as can also be proven by the choice of ring-and if so, reject them both. Claudia My husband's mother wanted him to give me an old cocktail ring of hers. Mitch and I discussed it and, knowing that she was a negative impact, decided that we should start our lives to make our own choices independently of her. I was glad he saw things my way. I saw the ring, I was so disappointed. But I knew he chose it with love, so I figured I'd keep it and try to remember his love rather than my dislike of the ring every time I looked at it. But I made sure we designed our wedding bands together. - Amy as Amy

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