

# Take care when selecting rings

By ERIC JUDE  
Copley News Service

Although there are several occasions when the average person buys jewelry during his or her lifetime, most people have only one shot at buying a wedding ring. So most people could use some consumer advice.

There are several points to keep in mind when shopping for a wedding ring, according to Woodrow Fleming, vice president of the Jewelry Group at Best Products Co. Inc., a Richmond, Va.-based catalog showroom chain.

— When choosing a ring, be mindful of the wearer's occupation. Will he or she

wear the ring all the time? Is it comfortable on a moving hand? Will it keep its appearance and not collect dirt and oil? Plain bands develop an attractive patina; patterned ones can mask scratches, Fleming said.

— When purchasing matching bands for the bride and groom, make a careful selection. Don't choose a pattern that's too feminine for the groom or too masculine for the bride.

— When matching a wedding band to an engagement ring, keep it simple. This is especially important if the engagement ring is an antique or family heirloom. Keep the focus on the unique piece.

— Although a variety of gemstones are

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