| Classification | Tahiti Pearls | |
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| | Surface Lustre | Perfect-Pearl exhibits no inclusions or imperfections prior to setting or drilling. Excellent lustre |
| A | Surface Lustre | Flawless on at least 90% of pearl's surface. Only 10% of pearl's surface may exhibit slight, concentrated imperfections - Only a single deep inclusion allowable-Pearl should drill or set clean. Very high lustre to excellent* |
| A/B | Surface Lustre | Flawless on at least 80% of pearl's surface. Only 20% of pearl's surface may exhibit slight, concentrated imperfections - Only one or two deep inclusions allowable-Pearl should drill or set clean to nearly clean. Lustre is high to very high* |
| В | Surface Lustre | Flawless on at least 70% of pearl's surface. Only 30% of pearl's surface may exhibit slight, concentrated imperfections - Pearl should drill or set nearly clean Lustre is high to very high* |
| C | Surface Lustre | Flawless on at least 40% of pearl's surface. Up to 60% of pearl's surface may exhibit slight, concentrated imperfections - Deep inclusions are limited to 10% of pearl's surface. Lustre is medium to very high* |
| D | Surface Lustre | At least 60% of pearl's surface will exhibit flaws - Deep inclusions and/or white spots within inclusions on up to 20% of pearl's surface. Lustre is poor to very high* |
| Note | *Cultured Tahitian pearls that do not fall into a category above, or do not meet the minimum nacre depth requirements of 0.8 mm per radius, do not pass the mandatory examination of the Ministere de la Perliculture of Tahiti. Those pearls are refused for export and destroyed | |