

### CULTURED PEARL TYPES: COMPARISON CHART

	Oyster	Origin/ Location	Avg. Size Range	Color Range	Treatment
Stuller & Paspaley South Sea Cultured Pearls	Pinctada maxima: Produces 1 pearl per shell	Northwest coast of Australia, cultivated and farmed by Paspaley	10-15mm (can grow in excess of 20mm)	White with overtones of all colors of the rainbow including silver and pink. Renowned for their luster.	None. Guaranteed to be of Natural Color and Luster
Other South Sea Cultured Pearls	Pinctada maxima: Produces 1 pearl per shell	Northwest coast of Australia, Indonesia, Burma, the Philippines, and South East Asia	8-15mm (can be in excess of 20mm)	Silvery white, pinkish white through champagne to deep gold.	Some are natural, however some may be dyed and/or bleached
Black Tahitian Cultured Pearls	Pinctada margaritifera: Produces 1 pearl per shell	French Polynesia, Marshall Islands, the Cook Islands and recently the Solomon Islands and Northern Australia	8 to 14mm (non-round shapes can be in excess of 20mm)	Color from dark grey to greenish grey and dark purple. Sometimes they are greenish black like a peacock feather. These pearls are characterized by their metallic sheen and changing hues.	Some are natural, however some Tahitians on the market may be dyed
Akoya Cultured Pearls	Pinctada fucata martensii: Produces an average of 4-5 pearls per shell	These pearls are mainly farmed in salt water in central and southern Japan and the coast of China	2-9mm	Colors range from pale cream to pinkish white through champagne to silvery grey.	Most are dyed and/or bleached
Freshwater Cultured Pearls	Grown in varieties of freshwater mussels. Produces up to 100 pearls per shell	Mainly produced in China	2-8mm	Colors range from white to black and every color in between.	Most are dyed and/or bleached