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<http://www.houseofA> gem with an aura of mysticism, freshwater pearl is an ageless ornament. This cultured pearl is molded by freshwater mussels which live in ponds, lakes and rivers. When an irritant is

inserted in to an oyster, it coats the particle with a substance called nacre. A pearl is formed with layers of nacre.

The value of pearls in jewellery is determined by a combination of lustre, colour, size, lack of surface flaw and symmetry, appropriate for the type of pearl under consideration. Lustre is

the most important attribute; however, when purchasing freshwater pearls nacre thickness is a vital aspect of deliberation.

China is the undisputed leader in freshwater pearl production, but Japan and the United States of America also culture these pearls. Freshwater pearls are durable and less expensive. Over the

years, they have also improved in quality. Pearls are made by living organisms; they are natural products certain to have imperfections. In a single strand of freshwater pearl, the shapes and

sizes of pearls may vary slightly.

Freshwater pearls are available in a number of shapes: round, off-round, circled, teardrop, oval, button, baroque, pear, irregular and stick-like. Stick-like pearls have come to be known as

Biwa pearls, named after Lake Biwa, which was once the focus of the freshwater pearl industry in Japan. Free-form pearls called Keishi pearls are formed accidentally when the mussel rejects

the nucleus.

Symbolic of love and piety, pearls are amongst the most elegant items of jewelry. Shapes like stars, crosses, coins, squares and tubes are the latest trend. Asymmetrical definitions are in

vogue as well. If you are looking for offbeat still enchanting, pearls with lines and ridges are apt.

Freshwater pearl beads are available in unique glossy tones like peacock, ivory and blends like peach-pink. Green is a preferred shade for the contemporary fashionista. Black pearls are a

sophisticated choice, although they are rarely ever jet black. A freshwater pearl can also be dyed and treated; modern designers appreciate brighter and bolder colours but natural shades

never go out of style.

Pearls are often sewn into bridal gowns; they make the ideal wedding jewelry. Shoulder-sweeping pearl earrings make a bold statement and simple studs are ever-so-classic. These days pearl

lariats, open scarf-like necklaces, are popular. Large pearl cocktail rings define haute couture, while strings of brightly tinted

Freshwater pearl create casual drama.

Pearls make stunning straps for dresses and striking purse handles. They are used to embroider clutch bags and to embellish footwear. You can also use these beauties for hair bands and hair

braids. Designing is a matter of sensibility and translating that sensibility into garments or jewelry. Freshwater pearl is a unique element with a royal legacy and you can take it from

classy to kitschy in expression.gems.com

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