

Why Stones fall out of Settings

This is a diagram of a perfectly good claw from side and top view. The claw has plenty of metal to hold the stone in the setting securely.



GOOD CLAW

This is a diagram of a worn claw. The amount of metal holding the stone in position is inadequate. Note how the top view looks the same as a good claw but in the side view the claws have worn very thin. That is why it is always important to look at the side view of a setting using an eyeglass. These claws will need to be replaced. Bear in mind if you see one worn claw in a setting it is almost certain that all the other claws will need replacing too. It is rare for one claw to wear in isolation.



WORN CLAW

This is a diagram of a bent claw. The most common cause is damage such as knocking the setting. If the setting is reasonably new with little wear then the one claw can be repaired and the stone re-set.



BENT CLAW

This is a diagram of a perfectly good claw on the left and a claw that has broken off leaving a rough surface on the right side of the setting. The most likely cause for the claw to snap off like this is due to a problem when the setting was originally manufactured, probably in the casting process. Sometimes the claws can be replaced but there is a risk that the other parts of the setting may have similar issues not yet visible.

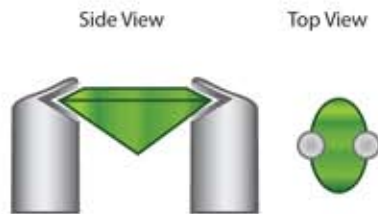


FAULTY METAL

Be aware that attempting a repair might expose a bigger problem.

How Worn Claws Are Replaced.

Claws need to be viewed with an eyeglass from the side view. This will show how much metal there is left holding the stone in place. The top view can be deceiving. Note how thin the metal is holding the stone in the setting.



1) Before the claws can be replaced the stones need to be removed. The worn claw is cut off at an angle. The angled cut creates a larger surface area and provides a stronger bond for the new claw.



2) A new post is soldered into position



3) A groove is cut into the side of the new claw, this is where the stone sits.



4) The stone is reset. Note the much deeper amount of metal holding the stone in place.



If a claw needs to be replaced because of wear it is likely that all claws in the setting will need to be replaced, it is rare for just one claw in a setting to wear. Check all claws.