



ask the expert

## *What is a natural diamond, and what is the difference between natural diamonds and lab-grown synthetic diamonds?*

NL Sponsor Bill Selig answers a common question he gets from clients who come into the Simsbury Store.



By **Bill Selig**, Bill Selig Jewelers

**Each month, our *NL* sponsors tackle a common question they receive from their clients. This month, *Northington Living* sponsor Bill Selig Jewelers and owner Bill Selig tells us the differences between natural and synthetic diamonds.**

A diamond is formed in the earth by natural forces. The heat and pressure necessary to convert carbon minerals into a diamond are found more than 50 miles below the earth's crust. Most diamonds were formed millions of years ago.

Over time, some of the diamond crystals find their way to the surface. On the surface, they either weather out of the original volcanic pipe and are found in ancient and modern river stream beds or they are mined underground in the original pipes. Diamonds are extremely rare.

*Synthetic diamonds (man-made diamonds exhibiting the identical properties as a natural diamond) were first produced by General Electric back in the 1950s.*

Today, gem-grade lab-grown diamonds are available on the market at about 30% less than their natural counterparts.

**We specialize in natural diamonds, but we have a few samples of synthetic diamonds in stock. They are available in all qualities and sizes up to about 5 ct.**

Bill Selig  
Owner of Bill Selig Jewelers  
712 Hopmeadow St. Simsbury  
<http://billseligjewelers.com>  
860-651-0555