Watch Out-for scams

Don't believe quotes over the phone. Those quotes will most likely change when you get to the store.

Do not let your items out of your sight. They may be replaced by lower purity metals when the buyer removes the items to another area.

Be careful with "mail-in your gold" services. You have little or no control over these types of sales.

Be careful with "Gold Party" scams. Remember, the host is getting a commission on the gold you buy or sell. Scales may be rigged.

Don't be a victim of Fraud
Follow these helpful Hints

Beware of "one day," temporary and hotel/mall jewelry buying and/or selling events.

Beware of gold sold in the back rooms of shops such as laundromats and food stores.

Shop around to get the best price.

Weigh your own gold before selling it.

Compare pricing. Get prices regularly on different Internet sites.

Separate your gold by karat before selling it. Try and get three offer-estimates before you sell.

Make sure you can see the scale and that the indicator is on "0."

Beware of rigged scales. Look for the blue and white paper sticker seal from the *Office of Weights and Measures*. A red sticker means it has failed inspection.

If you are thinking about selling your precious metals or jewelry for cash, the Division of Consumer Affairs wants to make sure you get every dollar to which you are entitled. The New Jersey Office of Weights and Measures has rules governing those who buy gold, other precious metals and jewelry, and the scales that are used to weigh the items you are selling.

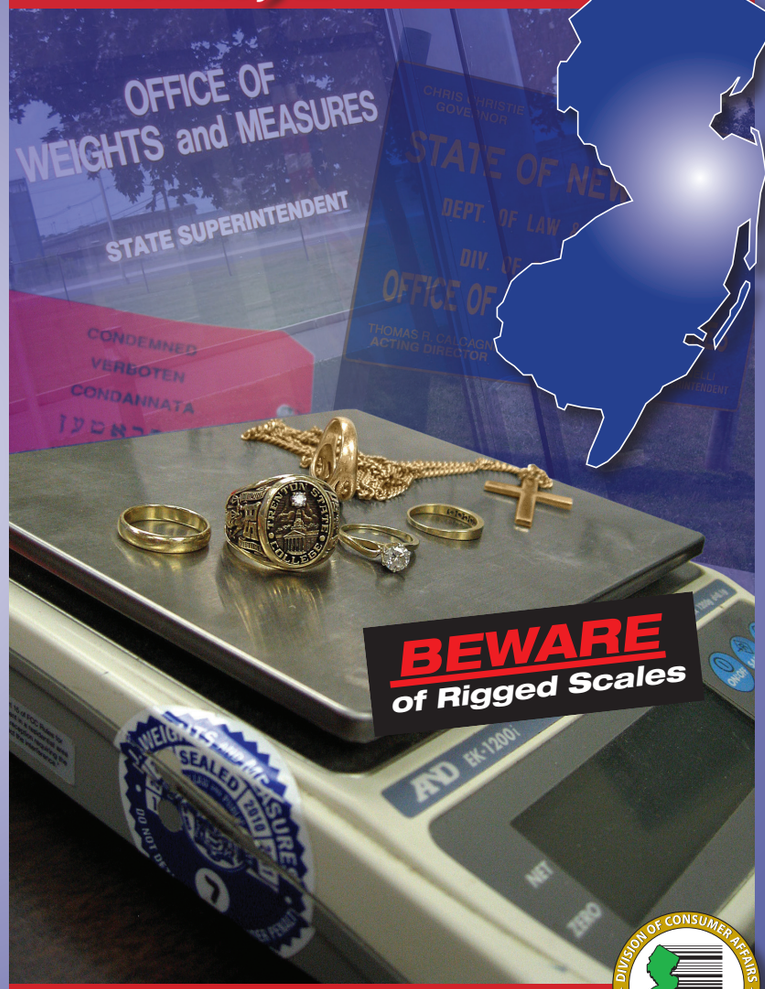
REPORT SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS OR PROBLEMS

Visit ▸ **www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/owm.htm**
Call ▸ **732-815-4840**
Write ▸ **OFFICE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**
1261 Routes 1 & 9 South
Avenel, New Jersey 07001

Consumer Service Center
800-242-5846 (toll free in NJ)
973-504-6200
www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov

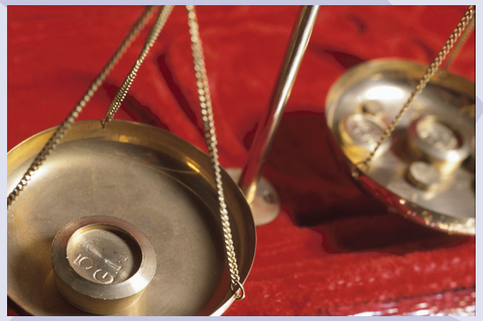
8/10-Precious Metals Brochure

SELLING YOUR PRECIOUS METALS and JEWELRY



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Important Information from the
New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs
Office of Weights and Measures



"Consumer Affairs is out there making sure that scales are not rigged to under-weigh your precious metals. Some buyers may be underweighing and giving consumers less money than they are due.

Consumers who need to sell their heirlooms and keepsakes to raise cash deserve to get every dollar that their gold, jewelry and precious metals are worth. But buyers who use unapproved, uninspected or purposely tampered-with scales are cheating consumers out of money."

Thomas R. Calcagni, *Acting Director*
New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs

What consumers need to know before a sale

It's important to know what to look for when considering to whom you should sell your items:

- ✔ ***Know with whom you are dealing.*** The buyer must include his/her name and address in all ads and at the point of purchase.
- ✔ ***Weighing must be done in plain sight.*** The buyer is required to weigh the items being sold in plain view of the seller. If the fineness (quality) of the precious metal is tested, the test must be performed in plain view of the seller.
- ✔ ***Check the scale.*** Sellers should look to see that the scale being used by the buyer:
  - has a blue-white *Weights & Measures* paper sticker seal on it;
  - has a date on the paper sticker seal;
  - has been tested within the past 12 months; and
  - has a seal that has not been broken, since a broken seal could mean that a scale has been tampered with.
- ✔ ***Prices must be prominently posted.***
- ✔ ***Get a COMPLETE sales receipt.*** If you sell your item, be sure the buyer provides you with a COMPLETE sales receipt with detailed information in case a dispute arises after the sale. This information must include:
  - the name and address of the buyer;
  - the date of the transaction;
  - the names of the precious metals purchased;
  - the fineness of the precious metals purchased;
  - the weights of the precious metals purchased;
  - the prices paid for the precious metals at the standard measures of weight; and
  - the name, address and signature of the seller of the precious metals.

What consumers need to know after a sale

- ✔ ***The buyer must*** keep the item purchased for at least two business days.
- ✔ ***The buyer must*** keep a serialized sales receipt of each transaction for at least one year.

Terms and Definitions consumers need to know

Precious Metals means gold, silver, platinum, palladium and alloys thereof.

Karat is the classification used to determine the purity of gold. Twenty-four karat gold (24K), for example, has the greatest purity, while 10 karat gold (10K) has the least.

A ***Transient Buyer***, as provided by New Jersey law (N.J.S.A. 51:6 A-5), is defined as a buyer of precious metals who has not been in any retail business continuously for at least six (6) months at the address in the municipality where he/she is required to register or who intends to close-out or discontinue all retail business in the municipality within six (6) months. Transient buyers are mobile and move to different locations weekly or monthly. Transient buyers are required to have a $5,000 bond posted with the *New Jersey Office of Weights and Measures*. You can check with that office to see if a bond has been posted.

A ***Pennyweight*** is a means of weighing precious metals. It comes from the British weight system. Pennyweights are measure in troy ounces. There are 20 pennyweights in a troy ounce, or 31.1 grams. A pennyweight (abbreviated dwt or pwt) is a unit of mass that is 1/20 of a troy ounce or 1.555 grams.