Due to the volatile silver market, please call for availability and price.

### 100-oz. .999 Fine Silver Bullion Bars

**Engelhard and Johnson Matthey Silver Bars Most Popular**

One hundred-ounce .999 fine silver bullion bars have become a popular way for investors to buy silver. 100-oz silver bars are uniform in shape, which makes them easy to stack and store. Because a 100-oz silver bar weighs only 6.86 pounds on a bathroom scale, silver bars are easy to handle.

Further, 100-oz silver bars are .999 fine (essentially pure), which enables silver bullion investors to store a great amount of wealth in a relative small space. Because 100-oz silver bars are accepted trading units, they are as easily sold as they are bought.

Numerous brands of .999 fine silver bars have been produced, but today four brands dominate the silver bullion market: Johnson Matthey, Engelhard, Wall Street Mint, and Sunshine Minting. The only differences among the bars are their dimensions and the methods by which they are produced, as discussed below.

**How 100-oz Silver Bars Came to Be**

In the early 1970s, inflation started running rampant, and investors moved to protect themselves financially by investing in silver, one of two proven inflation hedges. Gold, of course, is the other, but before December 31, 1974, investors could not legally own gold bullion.

To meet the demand of investors who wanted to take delivery of their silver, as opposed to speculating on futures exchanges, small refiners began turning out .999 fine silver products. By the mid-1970s, demand was robust and Engelhard began producing .999 fine silver products for the physicals market. Engelhard
100-oz silver bars were an instant hit, and shortly thereafter Johnson Matthey began pouring 100-oz silver bullion bars.

**Engelhard and Johnson Matthey Silver Bars**

By the mid-1980s the Reagan administration had brought down the rate of inflation, and investor interest waned. As a result, Engelhard and Johnson Matthey ceased production of silver bullion products. However, because of the huge quantities of bars turned out in the 1970s and 1980s, Engelhard bars and Johnson Matthey bars usually are available today. Yet, during periods of strong investor demand, sometimes Engelhard and JM bars become scarce.

Although Engelhard has not made silver bullion products since the late 1980s, Johnson Matthey again began pouring 100-oz silver bars in 2002 when investor demand put premiums on 100-oz bars that enabled JM to produce them at a profit. When Engelhard and JM bars are not available, investors can invest with confidence in Wall Street Mint and Sunshine Minting silver bars.

Because WSM silver bars are produced by an extrusion process, they are exactly the same dimensions, which makes them ideal for stacking and securing in safe deposit boxes. In contrast, most Johnson Matthey bars are poured, which makes them a little less convenient to stack when putting away a large number of bars. Most Engelhard 100-oz silver bars are extruded (maybe 20% are poured) and also are ideal for storage in safe deposit boxes.

The name Sunshine is nearly synonymous with silver because of the famed Sunshine Mine, in the equally-famed Coeur d’Alene Mining District, near Kellogg, Idaho. Further illustrating Sunshine Minting’s prominence in the silver industry, the U.S. Mint uses Sunshine 1-oz blanks to produce its Silver.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of investing in 100-oz silver bars, please call us.