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Take It Outside: 4 Rugged Men's Wedding Bands

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Just because a guy likes to get his hands dirty doesn't mean he can't wear a wedding band while doing so. In fact, men's wedding bands are now more rugged than ever, made with contemporary metals ideal for standing up to active lifestyles.

Whether it's on-the-job toughness you need or just something to stand up to your weekend warrior routine, there's a wedding band up for the task that combines functional materials with timeless design. Don't be afraid to show off your sensitive side, because all of the below contemporary metals are hypoallergenic, which means there's nothing standing in your way on the road to rugged.

Tungsten Carbide

Just like your marriage, tungsten carbide is made to last a lifetime. Created from an alloy of 80% elemental tungsten and 20% carbon (alloyed with other metals), tungsten is five times sturdier than industrial steel and an astounding ten times harder than 18k gold. It has a substantial weight, similar to platinum, and retains its shape for life. It comes in classic polished styles and a raw sand blast finish for an organic look.

Cobalt

You play hard, and cobalt wedding bands play even harder. Made from a highly durable alloy, this spectacular metal is four times harder than platinum but is less dense. Wrap your mind around that. Its natural hardness makes it extremely scratch, chip, and corrosion-resistant, while its malleability allows for dynamic jewelry designs. Cobalt holds a lifetime polish and is available in both a natural lustrous white and a rich blackened finish.

Tantalum

This rare earth metal can often be found in cell phones and DVD players. Tantalum is dense, shatterproof, and-in its natural state-a rich bluish-gray hue. A special patent pending ceramic glaze is applied to give tantalum jewelry a matte black look and enhance its scratch-resistance. This heat-resistant, inert metal is often used as a substitute for platinum in laboratory equipment and doesn't react to most chemicals.

Titanium

Good enough for rocket ships, strong enough for you. This unique metal is an incredible value and has a proven track record in engineering and aerospace. If you're looking for a lightweight ring, titanium is the way to go, as it has a much lower density than other metals. Harder than gold but not as hard as tungsten, titanium is moderately more prone to scratches but can be easily re-polished if you want to refresh its original finish.

Often more affordable than traditional gold or platinum, contemporary metals cannot be resized, so make sure you double check your ring size before purchase. And keep in mind that while these materials are often highly scratch-resistant, all metal will by nature show a natural wear pattern over time, so it is still advised to treat your jewelry with care.