Natural diamonds are the result of carbon exposed to tremendous heat and pressure deep in the earth. This process can result in a variety of internal characteristics called '[inclusions](file:///C:\Users\spetrich\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\XE77R677\diamond-clarity.htm##)' and external characteristics called '[blemishes](file:///C:\Users\spetrich\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\XE77R677\diamond-clarity.htm##).'