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## **AMBER**

What is amber? It is fossilized tree resin that holds secrets from the past. The most popular colors range from a sparkling yellowish-orange to glistening honey color. Inclusions like insects can add a great deal to the value of the amber. Amber is a soft gemstone and is more suitable for pendants or earrings than rings or bracelets.

### **SOURCES**

One of the best-known sources for amber is the Dominican Republic followed by Myanmar and Mexico.

### **ENHANCEMENTS**

Amber can sometimes be heated for richer, darker colors or to remove murkiness. Oil heated amber can include a reflective, disc type inclusion called spangles.

### **AWARENESS**

The best way to care for amber is by using a soft, moist cloth. Amber should never be subjected to ultrasonic machines or steam and avoid all harsh chemicals.

## **AMETHYST**

Amethyst shows off splendid colors of purple, going from light to dark. Purple was once the chosen color for royalty with the finest quality demonstrates a high transparency and a rich, velvet purple hue energized with flashes of burgundy. This is a very reasonably priced and durable gemstone. Amethyst is a variety of the mineral quartz as is citrine.

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Amethyst is the birthstone for February.

### **SOURCES**

The major sources include Brazil and Uruguay along with other sources includes Zambia, India, and Sri Lanka.

### **ENHANCEMENTS**

Most amethyst is heat treated to bring out its best color. Amethyst that is heat-treated are durable and doesn't require any special care.

### **CARE**

Amethyst needs to be protected from bashes and scratches but durable for everyday wear. Amethyst can be cleaned with most commercial cleaners and use a soft toothbrush. Some amethyst whether treated or not may fade to long exposure to sunlight so be cautious when wearing amethyst in sunlight.



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## **AQUAMARINE**

The Greeks proclaimed this valued, pale blue gem aquamarine, because it glistens like the sea that the sun tries to reach. Aquamarine is found in an assortment of very light to medium blue with a hint of green. Generally the darker shades are more prized but many prefer the brilliance of the lighter colors. Aquamarine is a easily available gemstone and holds its place among the world's most popular gems.

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Aquamarine is the birthstone for March.

### **SOURCES**

The main source for aquamarine is Brazil. A few other sources include Zambia, Nigeria, and Madagascar.

### **ENHANCEMENTS**

Almost all aquamarine is heat treated to reduce the greenish hue of its color so it will appear a clearer blue. Aquamarines that are heat treated and basically stable, but their color can fade if exposed to long periods of sunlight or extreme heat.

### **CARE**

Aquamarine should not be cleaned with an ultrasonic or a steamer; they can be cleaned with commercial cleaner and dry completely.

## **CITRINE**

Citrine is part of the quartz family, just like amethyst. The name is derived from the French word citron meaning lemon. Citrine ranges in colors from muted, golden champagne to intense, strong color of Madeira wine. Citrine is one of the most popular and pleasing gemstones and remarkable affordability. Citrine is a gemstone that generates feelings of sincerity and an attitude that is vivacity. Affordable citrine complements most jewelry wardrobes that are bright as well as with lighter hues.

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Citrine is the birthstone for November (as well as Topaz for November birthstone).

### **ORIGINS**

The majority of citrine comes from Brazil; however other sources are Madagascar and Bolivia.

### **ENHANCEMENTS**

Most of the citrine in the market today has been heat treated to enhance its look. Regardless if the stone has been heat-treated or not may fade if exposed to prolonged periods of heat and light.



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## **CITRINE**

### **CARE**

Citrine needs to be protected from harsh blows and scratches, but is quite resistant to normal wear. Citrine can be cleaned with most jewelry cleaners and be sure to dry your jewelry completely.

## **CULTURED PEARLS**

Pearls have been known as the "Queen of Gems", the pearl possesses a history and attraction more indulging than any other gem. A small secret fact is that a perfectly matched strand of natural's pearls is a jewel of unsurpassed value. Today's cultured pearls now combine the splendor of nature with the tough of the human hand to create a magnificent, organic gem in a wide variety. Cultured pearls are produced when a small piece of mantle tissue or bead is inserted into an oyster. The implanted material that is in the oyster will begin to produce a rich and opulent material called nacre which in turns creates the pearls radiant glow. Pearls can be cultivated in both salt and freshwater and can come in an array of different shapes and sizes. Round pearls seems to be the most popular and the colors can range from white, cream, gray, and black as well as purples, gold, and yellow.

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Cultured pearl is the birthstone for June.

### **ORIGINS**

Saltwater cultured pearls are produced in ocean bays and in lets of Japan, China, Australia, French Polynesia, and the Philippines. Freshwater cultured pearls are produced in lakes and rives in China and the United States.

### **ENHANCEMENTS**

Most of the light hues of cultured pearls are mildly bleached to have the color even out. Some cultured pearls are tumbled to enhance their roundness. Some may be dyed to create overtones of pink or strong body colors like teal, magenta, or gold. Occasionally cultured pearls are irradiated to have a strong iridescence or dark color like black or gray.

### **CARE**

Cultured pearls are softer than most gemstones but most can be durable enough to wear everyday. Oil, soaps, perfumes, and hairspray can damage the cultured pearl, so you should put it on before you put on your pearls. Pearls can be cleaned with a dry, soft cloth before you put your pearls away. Never clean pearls with any harsh chemicals and to keep them lasting have them checked and restrung every few years.



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## **EMERALD**

Emerald has been a symbol for rebirth and long-lasting love. Emerald was a favorite of the Pharaohs, cherished by Mogul rulers of India, and coveted by the royal houses of Europe. No other green gemstone can compete with the emerald's lavish green color and forever popularity. Emeralds are usually see-through to opaque. Most emeralds people think they are green but if you look really close you can see slight variations in color. Some of the world's best emeralds are a slightly bluish green with pure green emeralds are very sought-after. Emerald is part of the beryl family along with aquamarine. If the gem is too light in hue, it will not be considered an emerald but green beryl. Many emeralds contain internal characteristics or inclusions and can be described as a garden. Emeralds that do not contain these type of inclusions are rare and expensive.

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Emerald is the birthstone for the month of May.

### **ORIGINS**

Main sources for emeralds are Colombia, Brazil, and Pakistan.

### **ENHANCEMENTS**

Most emeralds are enhanced to improve their look. On the market today are both natural and man-made fillers and are present into the fissures in the emeralds to decrease their visibility. This is often referred to as oiling or infilling. These types of enhancements are not considered the most durable enhancements, as fillers can come out over time or if exposed to very high heat.

### **CARE**

Extra care needs to be used when wearing and cleaning emeralds. Do not clean emeralds in an ultrasonic or a steamer and do not clean the emeralds with commercial jewelry cleaners. The best way to clean emeralds is by using warm water and mild soap and make sure to rinse and dry thoroughly.

## **GOLD**

### **FINISHES**

High polish which is smooth, glossy, and shiny surface  
Hammered has a textured, bumpy, and distinctive surface  
Satin, Brushed, and Matte are silky, glistening, and like soft velvet  
Diamond Cut and Diamond Laser are luminous and shimmery

### **FORMULAS FOR GOLD COLORS**

Gold + Palladium or Silver = White Gold  
Gold + Copper = Rose Gold  
Gold + Copper + Silver or Palladium = Green Gold



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## **GOLD**

### **KARATAGE**

24 karat gold is 24 parts gold  
18 karat gold is 18 parts gold and 6 parts alloy  
14 karat gold is 14 parts gold and 10 parts alloy  
10 karat gold is 10 parts gold and 14 parts alloy

### **COST**

Cost depends a lot on the amount of karat gold used in a piece as well as the design and craftsmanship

### **CARE**

Using a polishing cloth to help keep it shiny  
Store jewelry in individual areas in a jewelry box or bags  
Jewelry should be put on last to avoid perfume, hairspray, and soap to touch the jewelry  
Chains should be taken off at night to avoid kinking and breaking  
Do not wear jewelry in a swimming pool due to chlorine, which can damage gold

More information visit to [www.gold.org](http://www.gold.org)

## **GARNET**

Most people think of garnets as a rusty colored red gemstone but if you expand your horizons just a bit; you will find an array of colors in garnets except for blue. Garnet's popularity goes back over 5,000 years to Egypt. The gems there were made into beads or wrought jewelry. Jewelry that contains Bohemian garnets from the 19<sup>th</sup> century are still popular today due to their magnetism and uniqueness.

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Garnet is the birthstone for the month of January.

### **ORIGINS**

Garnets can be found in many different areas with some of the more important sources being Africa, Australia, Brazil, and India

### **ENHANCEMENTS**

There are currently no enhancements used on garnets.

### **CARE**



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## **GARNET**

Garnets are tough and durable and can be clean with ultrasonic or steamer and commercial jewelry cleaner.

## **OPAL**

Opal is a unique gemstone that has a flare for stunning array of flashes of color it shows off. Opal offers a greater variety of color choices than any other gemstone. Opal has been cherished for its spectacular displays of appearances as for it its awesome splendor. Today, there are more than 100 different array and names to describe opals. Opals with a light body color overall are usually called white opals and ones with a dark body color overall are mainly called black opals. Whether the opal is white or black, the value will depend upon the vibrancy of the spectrum flashes (usually called play of color) seen from inside the gem and the configuration these colors form. Another opal that has very little to no play of color is called fire opal. These fire opals range in colors from golden yellows to flaming reds and oranges.

## **BIRTHSTONE**

Opal is the birthstone for the month of October and also shares this title with tourmaline.

## **ORIGINS**

The majority of the opals come from Australia's deserts and they also found in Mexico and the United States.

## **TREATMENTS**

Opals have a variety of enhancements to bring out the beauty in them. The most common will darken the body color to make the play of color more visible. Some opals are coated with oil, wax, or plastic to improve their look. These enhancements are very lasting because they only coat the surface.

## **CARE**

Opal has a fairly high water content and should be kept away from heat and strong light so they do not dry out. Opals can draw moisture from the air and should not be kept in lock boxes for extended periods of time. Do not clean opals with an ultrasonic, steamer, or commercial cleaner. You can use a soft cloth and mild soap to clean opals and make sure to dry thoroughly. Since opals are a soft stone, they are best suited to be worn in pendants or earrings.



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## **PERIDOT**

Peridot is a unique gem due to the fact that most of them are formed in rocks that are created by volcanic activity and on a rare occasion you may find one in a meteorite. Peridot ranges in colors from a pale yellowish green to a dark, deep hue of olive. You can trace back Peridot over 3,500 years and it was first mined on an island in the Red Sea and this is where Cleopatra's peridot's were from. This gem has started to gain recognition due to it being reasonably priced, greater accessibility, and the increasing popularity of different shades.

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Peridot is the birthstone for the month of August

### **ORIGINS**

Italy and the Hawaiian Islands have found in limited abundance in volcanic areas and some of the finest peridot is found in Myanmar.

### **ENHANCEMENTS**

There are currently no enhancements used on peridot.

### **CARE**

Heat can damage peridot and it should never be cleaned in an ultrasonic or steamer. Peridot can be cleaned with commercial jewelry cleaner or mild soap and warm water.

## **RUBY**

Pleasure is one way to describe a ruby, which goes straight to the heart with color and vigor that no other gemstone can do. Ruby takes the force of illumination and the intensity of an inferno into a magnificent crimson colored gem. Ruby hold the most coveted of titles for a gem, "King of Gems". Ruby comes in a variety of hues from a purplish red to an orangey red and belongs to the same family as sapphire, corundum. If a gem is too purple or orange in color, it would be called a fancy sapphire and not a ruby. The most valuable rubies are pure red or red with very slight pinkish undertone.

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Ruby is the birthstone for the month of July.

### **ORIGINS**

The finest rubies are found in Myanmar and other sources include Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

### **ENHANCEMENTS**



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## **RUBY**

Ruby is commonly heat treated to enhance its appearance and are very stable. However, some rubies may have glass-like residue left on the surface-reaching fissures after they are heated. This glass-like is not stable and needs extra care in cleaning

## **CARE**

Rubies are tough and durable and can be clean with an ultrasonic or steamer and commercial jewelry cleaner. Rubies with glass-like residue should not be put in an ultrasonic cleaner or steamer.

## **SAPPHIRE**

Sapphires range from very subtle shades to the most vivid blues you can think of. Sapphires do not stop at just blue they come in a variety of other hues called fancy sapphires and range in colors from pinks, purples, oranges, yellows, and green. Sapphire has been associated with the heavens and can signify truth, honesty, and faithfulness. No matter what the color is, the most valuable are a vivid color with a medium tone and very dark and very light are the most affordable sapphires.

## **BIRTHSTONE**

Sapphire is the birthstone for the month of September

## **ORIGINS**

An important source of fine quality sapphire is Kashmir and other sources include Australia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

## **ENHANCEMENTS**

The majority of sapphires today have been heat treated to make them look better. The heat-treatment is very durable.

## **CARE**

Sapphires are tough and durable and can be clean with an ultrasonic or steamer and commercial jewelry cleaner.

## **SPINEL**

Spinel is a hidden secret and is perfect for the savvy clientele. Spinel was once confused with rubies and sapphires. The British Crown jewels actually contained spinel when at first was thought to have been a ruby. Spinel comes in a variety of colors like subtle colors of pink and purple, orange, and fresh hues from a cool gray to vivid blues. Spinel is sought after gem collectors due to its radiance, stability, and rainbow of colors. Spinel is quite affordable due to the fact is not a very well known gemstone and a great alternative to ruby or sapphire and softer on the pocket book.



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## **SPINEL**

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Spinel has no birthstone month but laboratory grown spinel of various colors have been used to imitate birthstones.

### **ORIGINS**

Some of the world's most gorgeous spinel comes from Myanmar, mostly the reds and pinks and other sources include Sri Lanka and Thailand.

### **ENHANCEMENTS**

There are currently no enhancements used on spinel

### **CARE**

Spinel is tough and durable and can be clean with ultrasonic or steamer and commercial jewelry cleaner.

## **TANZANITE**

Tanzanite is one of the newest gemstones and was discovered in Tanzania around 1967 and became popular in a very short amount of time. The gemstone was named in the country it was found and was introduced into the United States by Tiffany & Co. The hues range from blue to a violet to purple. Pleochroism is what gives tanzanite its unusual and distinctive colors. When you view tanzanite from different directions you can see blue, violet, purple, bronze, or gray. A gemstone cutter studies the crystal before cutting to decide which directional orientation will show off the best blue hue possible.

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Tanzanite is the new birthstone for the month of December along with Turquoise and Zircon.

### **ORIGINS**

Tanzanite is found in only one location, Tanzania which is in eastern Africa.

### **ENHANCEMENTS**

Almost all tanzanite is heated to produce its deep, velvety blue, violet and purple colors. Bronze and brownish hues are only diminished during the heating process.

### **CARE**

Tanzanite is a fairly stable gemstone but not equally durable and can easily chip if it is hit or quick change in temperature. Tanzanite is best to wear in pendants and earrings and should not be cleaned in an ultrasonic or steamer. Tanzanite can be cleaned with commercial jewelry cleaner and dry thoroughly.



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## **TOPAZ**

Topaz ranges from warm to cool hues. On the cool side topaz colors range from pale blue to the most vivid aqua and greenish blues. The warmer side of topaz is the golden colors of white wine or rosiness of ripened peaches. Topaz range in other color too like deep, creamy browns to vigorous varieties of orange and cinnamon. One of the most uncommon hues of topaz can be intense pinks and claret reds. What has made topaz popular over these years is due to its attractiveness and reasonably priced and found in an array of colors.

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Topaz is the birthstone for the month of November (and shared Citrine with November birthstone).

### **ORIGINS**

Some of the most productive sources for topaz are Brazil and Nigeria. Topaz is also found in Myanmar, Russia, and Sri Lanka.

### **TREATMENTS**

Topaz is normally treated to bring out the best hues. Shades of brown, orange, and yellow often will change to pink when heated. Blue and green shades are usually produced by heat and irradiation and the enhancements are typically stable.

### **CARE**

Topaz is a durable gemstone that is difficult to scratch. Due to topaz's internal structure it could fracture or separate if it was hit too hard. Do not use ultrasonic or steam on topaz however, commercial jewelry cleaner can be used.

## **TOURMALINE**

Tourmaline occurs in more colors and combinations than any other gemstone variety and shows of both liveliness and attractiveness. Individual crystals can differ in hues along their lengths or widths and gemstones cut from these multi-colored crystals can possibly show off two or more color blends. Tourmaline has been confused for thousands of years with several other gemstones due to the vast array of color combinations. Tourmalines rainbow of hues, improved availability, and appealing prices has lead to the growth of popularity of this gemstone.

### **BIRTHSTONE**

Pink tourmaline is an alternative to the birthstone month of October (or opal).

### **ORIGINS**

Some of the premium tourmalines are found in Southern California and other sources include Brazil, Sri Lanka, and Madagascar. The state of Maine is more of a historical resource than producing resource today.



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## **TOURMALINE ENHANCEMENTS**

Some tourmalines are heat treated or irradiated to bring out their finest color. Some treated tourmalines could fade if exposed to high heat or intense light.

## **CARE**

Tourmaline is a durable gemstone that is resilient to scratches and breaking, however it should be protected from hard hits or quick temperature changes. Ultrasonic Sonics should not be used on red or pink tourmalines due to internal characteristics in these gemstones. Tourmaline can be cleaned using most commercial jewelry cleaner.