

GUIDE TO GEMSTONE CARE & CLEANING

Amber

Amber is plant resin that has been fossilized into stone millions of years ago. The Ancient Greeks believed that amber was the essence of the sun, congealed beneath the sea. Amber often has inclusions of air bubbles, pine needles or insects.

Care Tips:

- Do not use steam or ultrasonic cleaners, they may shatter the gem.
 - Use lukewarm water and flannel cloth.
 - Amber can be polished with clear olive oil.
 - Store in a cloth bag away from other jewelry
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Amethyst

Amethyst is a lovely and popular violet stone. Amethyst is a variety of quartz and ranges from pale lilac to rich deep purple shades. Because purple has always been associated with royalty, amethysts are often found in the ornaments of ancient Greeks and Egyptians, as well as in the British Crown Jewels. The best amethysts come from Russia, but the stone is also found in Brazil.

Gemstone for February & 4th and 6th wedding anniversary.

Care Tips:

- Amethyst will become more transparent if left out in direct sunlight for an extended amount of time.
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Aquamarine

Named for the clear blue waters that its name reflects, aquamarine is a beautiful stone. Its versatility makes it a favorite gemstone among jewelry designers. Aquamarine is a blue variety of beryl, a cousin to the emerald. Traditionally, this stone is said to guarantee a successful marriage, wealth and happiness. Gemstone for March & 18th wedding anniversary.

Care Tips:

- Clean your aquamarine in ultrasonic jewelry cleaner or with warm, soapy water and a soft bristle brush.
- Do not clean in a home ultrasonic machine.
- As with all gemstones, care should be taken to protect it from scratches and sharp blows.
- Aquamarine often becomes paler if left out in the sun.

Citrine

Citrine belongs to the same gemstone family as amethyst, and is a yellow variety of quartz. Its name comes from the French word "Citron," meaning Lemon. Citrine is produced by heating amethyst, and turns from purple to yellow or warm brown in color. Citrine is a fine substitution for yellow sapphires or diamonds. Gemstone for November & 17th wedding anniversary.

Care Tips:

- Citrine can be easily scratched.
 - It often changes color permanently if left in sunlight or heat for many hours.
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Diamond

The diamond is the most famous gemstone available. Known for its extreme hardness, the diamond symbolizes courage and purity, as well as love and fidelity.

A diamond is a mineral composed of carbon crystallized at extremely high temperatures and pressures; in nature, diamonds form 93 to 124 miles or more below the earth's surface. Diamonds are the hardest of all known natural substances. Its color ranges from colorless to yellow, brown, gray, orange, green, blue, white, black, purple, pink, and, extremely rare, red. Transparent and near-colorless in a desirable color diamond is a highly valued gemstone; poorly colored or heavily included single crystals are used for a wide variety of industrial purposes. There are seven diamond shapes for jewelry: Round, Marquise, Emerald, Princess, Pear, Oval and Heart. Side stone options include these seven shapes, as well as Baguette and Trillion.

Read More about Diamonds: [Diamonds 101](#).

Care Tips:

- Use a mild solution of 6 parts water to 1 part ammonia and clean with a soft bristle brush.
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Emerald

Because of their beauty and rarity, emeralds are some of the most valuable gems in the world. Emerald is a type of beryl that owes its lovely shade of green to chromium. In ancient times, emeralds were thought to bring peace of mind and tranquility to the wearer. Gemstone for May, 20th and 45th wedding anniversary, Spring.

Care Tips:

- Emeralds are delicate and should not be exposed to high heat, rough handling, chemicals, steam or ultrasonic cleaning.

Garnet

Although best known as a deep red stone, garnets come in almost every color of the rainbow. From brilliant green tsavorite garnets to violet rhodolite garnets, there are plenty of options to choose from. Because of their flexibility, garnets are a good choice to substitute for a more expensive, or more fragile gemstone. Gemstone for January & 2nd wedding anniversary.

Care Tips:

- Avoid abrupt temperature changes, and do not use ultrasonic or steam to clean.
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Jade

The most precious stone in China, jade has been the royal gem of China for over 5000 years. Although most famous for its green shades, jade comes in many colors and tones. Gemstone for 25th wedding anniversary.

Care Tips:

- Avoid boiling or high heat cleaning.
 - Try a brief soak in a sudsy ammonia and water solution, then brush carefully around the setting with a soft brush. Rinse well and dry.
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Peridot

A lovely green gemstone, peridot was discovered as early as 1500 BC by the ancient Egyptians. It ranges in all shades of green, from pale spring green to a deep emerald green. The Romans called the peridot "'The Evening Emerald,' as it did not darken during the night and still shone bright in indoor light. Gemstone for August & 3rd wedding anniversary.

Care Tips:

- Peridot is sensitive to acidic solutions.
 - Clean with warm soapy water instead of using steam or ultrasonic cleaners.
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Ruby

The gemstone of passion and fire, rubies' fine red tones have been long sought after. The most prized are a deep red and are known as "pigeon's blood." Rubies are said to be the stone of good luck and courage. Gemstone for July, 40th wedding anniversary & Summer.

Care Tips:

- Rubies are very durable and easy to care for.
- All major cleaning methods are safe.

Sapphire

"Cornflower blue" is the most prized color of a sapphire. It is rare, especially in this shade, making it one of the most prized and valuable of all gemstones. Though blue is the most popular, sapphires come in every color of the rainbow except red. Sapphires are said to represent truth, sincerity and consistency. Gemstone for September, 15th (blue) 30th (fancy) 50th (yellow) wedding anniversaries & Autumn.

Care Tips:

- Sapphires are very hard. However, treat them as you would any valuable and cherished object.
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Tanzanite

Tanzanite is a beautiful blue stone with overtones of purple. It is a blue form of zoisite found mainly in Tanzania. A new gemstone, tanzanite was popularized by Tiffany & Company. It is heat-treated to bring out its vibrant blues and violets. Gemstone for 24th wedding anniversary.

Care Tips:

- Tanzanite can easily be scratched or chipped.
 - Clean your tanzanite with warm, soapy water and a soft bristle brush.
 - Avoid using ultrasonic cleaning
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Topaz

Topaz comes in almost every color of the rainbow, but is best known for its yellow, orange and blue tones. Champagne topaz is a good substitution for smoky quartz, and Pink topaz is a good substitution for Tourmaline. Topaz symbolizes faithfulness, beauty and health. Gemstone for November (yellow), December (blue) & 4th (blue), 16th (golden) and 23rd (imperial) wedding anniversaries.

Care Tips:

- Topaz is relatively hard, but not tough.
 - Avoid steam or ultrasonic cleaning, as well as rough handling and sudden temperature changes.
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Tourmaline

Tourmaline comes in every color of the rainbow. It lives up to its name, which comes from the Sinhalese word "turmalī," meaning "mixed." Especially prized are pink, green and blue varieties of tourmaline. Different hues can even develop within the same stone, which in the case of green and pink, produces "watermelon tourmaline." Tourmaline makes a good substitution for any colored gemstone.

Gemstone for October (alternative to Opal) & 10th (green), 17th (pink) wedding anniversaries.

Care Tips:

- Avoid extreme temperature changes (such as leaving it on a heater or in a hot car).
 - Do not clean tourmaline in a home ultrasonic cleaner.
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Zircon

Zircon is a natural stone often confused with cubic zirconia, which is a synthetic stone. Zircon is usually clear, but comes in a variety of colors. Blue zircon is among the most popular colors, gaining popularity in the Victorian era. Blue zircon is made by heat-treating the zircon. Gemstone for December & 7th wedding anniversary.

Care Tips:

- Zircon is fairly fragile.
 - Avoid handling it roughly and do not use steam or ultrasonic cleaners.
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Unique

Our unique category showcases interesting and obscure gems that fall outside of the categories we typically sell. From spinels and sphenes to carnelian and chrysoberyl, you'll find unusual gems in unique settings at Haig's of Rochester Fine Jewelry.

Care Tips:

- For care of a particular type of unique stone, contact our experts at Haig's of Rochester.