

GEMSTONE INFORMATION

For decades, people use the terms like 'precious' or 'semi-precious' to define a gemstone. Every gemstone is unique and has characteristics that set them apart from each other. The stone's chemical composition, hardness, color and place of origin are considered while categorizing gemstones into different groups. The gemstones are sorted in different types so that it becomes easier for a person to know how to wear, when to wear and how to care for their favorite pieces.

EXOTIC OR RARE GEMSTONES

Exotic or rare gemstones are often collector's specimens. Such gemstones are appreciated for their unique beauty and rarity. For those who are looking for something exclusive, exotic or rare gemstones will mesmerize you with their unique visual appeal, reputed healing properties and exclusive rarity. Some examples of exotic or rare gemstones include:

- ❖ Morganite: Impressing with its unique pink to peach color range, morganite is rare among other types of beryl gemstones due to sporadic mining.
- ❖ Aquamarine: Loved for its iconic oceanic blue green hues, aquamarine is one of the most admired gemstones.
- ❖ Red Diamond: Rarely occurring in nature, red is one of the most unusual colors to be found in diamonds.
- ❖ Tanzanite: One thousand times more rare than diamonds, tanzanite is a single-source stone that displays and intriguing color shift.

PRECIOUS GEMSTONES

There are four gemstones that are categorized as 'precious' gemstones. What makes these precious gemstones in their history. Over the ages, royalty and religious figures have revered these stones. They are traditionally included as gifts for special celebrations such as weddings, anniversaries and birthdays. The four precious gemstones are:

- ❖ Ruby: Cherished for its brilliant and vivid red color, ruby is the definitive precious red gemstone.
- ❖ Emerald: Loved for its lush green color, the clarity of an emerald is its most defining characteristic.
- ❖ Sapphire: Once considered the stone of heaven, sapphire captivates with its vibrant blue hues.
- ❖ Diamond: With a magical combination of structure, composition and formation, diamonds offer unique qualities that make it stand alone.

SEMI-PRECIOUS GEMSTONES

Most any gemstone other than ruby, emerald, diamond and sapphire is known as a 'semi-precious' gemstone. These stones are usually more abundant in nature. The semi-precious category also includes some organic materials such as amber and pearl. Popular semi-precious gemstones include:

- ❖ Amethyst: Appearing in various tones from pale pink-lavender to intense royal purple, amethyst displays pleochroism.
- ❖ Citrine: Famous for its breathtaking range of hues, citrine captures the warm glow of autumn.
- ❖ Garnet: Loved for its intense velvety red hues, garnet is truly one of Mother Nature's little surprises.
- ❖ Peridot: Featuring an enchanting olive color, Peridot captivates us with intriguing displays of sparkle.
- ❖ Turquoise: Having been revered since ancient times, turquoise always finds itself at the forefront of fashion.

ORGANIC GEMSTONES

Gemstones that come from plant or animal life, organic gemstones are produced by living organisms. Pearls are produced by mollusks and amber is a byproduct of sap from trees. These gemstones are not as durable as most minerals. Because of this they are generally polished, carved or drilled. Rarely are they faceted. Famous organic gemstones are:

- ❖ Amber: Known as a "window to the past," amber is fossilized tree resin and frequently contains prehistoric plant material insects and strands of DNA.
- ❖ Abalone: Shimmering in iridescent blues, greens and purples, abalone shell has been popular since humanity's earliest days.
- ❖ Pearl: One of the most classic gemstones, pearl has been treasured for centuries, if not millennia.

LAB CREATED GEMSTONES

Lab created gemstones are made under controlled conditions in laboratories to mimic the look and feel of a real gemstone by using the exact same chemical composition of its natural counterpart. In many instances it can be difficult to tell the difference between a synthetic or lab created gemstone and the actual gemstone since they have the same chemical composition. Examples of lab created gemstones include:

- ❖ Lab created Emerald
- ❖ Lab created Pink Sapphire
- ❖ Lab created Ruby

SIMULATED GEMSTONES

Simulated gemstones are made to match the color and look of a genuine gemstone. They are made from a variety of materials. Simulated stones can be created under controlled lab conditions, such as cubic zirconia. Or, a simulated stone can be a stone used to imitate another. An example of a simulated diamond would be a cubic zirconia. Other example of simulated gemstones are:

- ❖ Simulated Sapphire
- ❖ Simulated Ruby
- ❖ Simulated Emerald

CUBIC ZIRCONIA (CZ)

CA is the finest simulated diamond today; like diamonds, CZ is colorless and does not lose brilliance. Similar to natural stones, CZ varies in color, clarity and cut. CZs are cut the same way as diamonds.

CRYSTALS

Crystals are faceted glass- creating a sparkling, diamond-like appearance.