

SAPPHIRE

The name "sapphire" can also apply to any corundum that's not ruby red, another corundum variety.



ABOUT SAPPHIRE



Besides blue sapphire and ruby, the corundum family also includes so-called "fancy sapphires." They come in violet, green, yellow, orange, pink, purple, and intermediate hues.

Some stones exhibit the phenomenon known as color change, most often going from blue in daylight or fluorescent lighting to purple under incandescent light. Sapphires can even be gray, black, or brown.

BIRTHSTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

Sapphire is the birthstone for September and the gem of the 5th and 45th anniversaries.

TREATMENTS

There are a number of processes used to alter the color, apparent clarity, or improve the durability of gems.

SYNTHETICS

Some gemstones have synthetic counterparts that have essentially the same chemical, physical, and optical properties, but are grown by man in a laboratory.

IMITATIONS

Any gem can be imitated—sometimes by manmade materials or by natural materials chosen by man to impersonate a particular gem.



WHY WE LOVE THIS GEMSTONE

VIVID AND SATURATED

Sapphire's blue can be vivid and saturated, like it's lit from within.

DURABLE

It's so durable, synthetic sapphire is used for the windows of supermarket scanners and spacecraft.

DELICATE SILK

Sapphire often contains delicate intersecting needles of rutile that gemologists call silk.

KASHMIR

Intensely saturated and velvety, rare sapphires from Kashmir set the standard for blue.

ROYAL BLUE

The world's most famous engagement ring: Kate Middleton's and Princess Diana's sapphire.

PADPARADSCHA

A rare and valuable pinkish-orange sapphire named from the Sinhalese for lotus blossom.

FACTS

MINERAL: Corundum

CHEMISTRY: Al_2O_3

COLOR: Every color but red

REFRACTIVE INDEX: 1.762 to 1.770

SPECIFIC GRAVITY: 4.00 (+/- 0.05)

Mohs HARDNESS: 9

BIREFRINGENCE: 0.008 to 0.010