



Sapphire

Birthstone Month: **September**

Anniversary: **5th and 45th**

Season/Zodiac: **Taurus**

Interesting Facts/History

Sapphire is a regal gem and was worn by kings about the neck as a powerful defense from harm. The gem has many virtues including protection from captivity, preserving and increasing courage, and in improving all the senses including clearing and strengthening eyesight. It is also considered by some as an antidote to poison. In Persian legend the Earth rests upon a great sapphire whose reflection is seen in the sky.

Name Derivation

Sapphire comes from the Latin "Sapphirus" meaning dear to the planet Saturn.

Varieties, Value and Colour Symbolism

Sapphire denotes all colours of the gem species Corundum other than red which are called Ruby. The term Sapphire alone generally refers to the blue colour, while "fancy sapphire" refers to many different hues including yellow, orange, pink, purple, and green. The most valuable Blue Sapphires are medium dark in tone, vivid Blue to slightly violetish Blue hues. Lighter toned, more brilliant Sapphires such as those mined in Sri Lanka are also highly valued. Blue Sapphire is available in many sizes and shapes. Those over 20 carats are considered rare and command a high value. The blue hue conjures up many images including: the sky and the vast oceans, baby-blue, blue-chip, blue-blood, blue-ribbon, blue suede shoes, and "I've got the blues". Interestingly, blue happens to be most people's favorite colour, and is hands-down most men's preferred colour. It is the colour of stability, conservatism and professionalism.

Where the Gem is Mined

The majority of Sapphire is mined in Southeast Asia including the top producers: Thailand, and Myanmar (Burma) as well as Sri Lanka, Africa, and the USA. Kashmir once produced among the finest qualities.

Durability

Hardness (*resistance to scratching*) = 9 on the Moh's scale, second only to diamond.

Toughness (*resistance to breaking, chipping, cracking*) = Excellent.

Stability (*to heat, light, chemicals*) = Stable, a very long-wearing gem.

Care and Cleaning

Ultrasonic = Usually safe. Do not use if the Sapphire has internal fissures.

Steam Cleaning = Usually safe. Do not use if the Sapphire has internal fissures.

Repair Recommendations = Most types of repair work can be done without removing Sapphires from their mountings.

Enhancements

Most Sapphires are subjected to heat as a normal part of the processing phase to improve their colour. This enhancement is permanent, stable, and does not require any special care.

Fashion Significance

Blue sapphires, and fancy sapphires have been highly prized for thousands of years. A favorite hue, blue complements almost any fashion wardrobe and combined with the overall durability of sapphire, one can own and enjoy a gemstone that will endure for generations to come.