

# Birthstone Information

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## April and May Gemstones

Common Name	Mohs Scale	Common Enhancements	Natural Colors	Family	AKA
<b>Agate</b>	7	Dying	A range of colors and designs including flecks and bands	Quartz: Banded form of Chalcedony	Carnelian (yellow-orange) Chrysoprase (pure green) Onyx (black & white) Sard (yellow to brown) Sardonyx (banded Sard) Etc
<b>Amber</b>	2.5	Often heated in oil to remove cloudiness; Green Amber is often heated-treated Yellow Amber	Yellow, golden, orange, reddish, whitish, black, blue	Organic: Fossil	--
<b>Bloodstone</b>	7	None to Rare	Dark green with flecks of red	Quartz: Chalcedony or Jasper	Heliotrope
<b>Carnelian</b>	7	None to Rare	Reddish/Orange translucent	Quartz: Reddish, transparent to translucent variety of Chalcedony	flesh red chalcedony
<b>Chalcedony</b>	7	Dying	All colors	Quartz	microcrystalline quartz
<b>Coral</b>	3.5	Dying	Red, Orange, Tan, White, Pink, Golden, Black, Blue	Organic	Sea Bamboo
<b>Diamond</b>	10	Fakes and imitations	Variable and tends toward pale yellows, browns, grays, and also white, blue, black, reddish, greenish and colorless	Carbons	--
<b>Emerald</b>	7½-8	Fakes and doublets; also pale Emerald can be heat-treated to become Aquamarine	Green to dark Green	Beryl	Pale Emerald is called "green beryl"
<b>Opal</b>	4½-6½	Fakes and doublets; also many gemstones with "Opal" in their tradename	Colorless, white, yellow, orange, red, purple, blue, green, gray, brown, and black	Silicates	Hyalite
<b>Rose Quartz</b>	7	Dying	Pink	Chalcedony	--
<b>Sapphire</b>	9	Heat treating to improve clarity; Synthetic Sapphire	Blue, yellow, green, white, colorless, pink, orange, brown, and purple (all colors except	Corundum	Corundum, Padparadschah, Bengal Amethyst,

			red, since a red Sapphire is a Ruby)		Indian Topaz, Ultralite
<b>Turquoise</b>	5-6	Stabilizing, Reconstituting, Imitations and Fakes (Jasper, Chrysocolla), Synthetic, Dying, Oiling, Waxing	Blue, Green, and colors between those two (not yellow!) with occasional black matrix	Phosphates	
<b>White Spinel</b>	7½-8	Synthetic Spinel	White	Oxides	Spinel

## June and July Gemstones

Common Name	Mohs Scale	Common Enhancements	Natural Colors	Family	AKA
<b>Alexandrite</b>	8.5	None	Green in daylight and red-violet in incandescent light (famous for it's ability to change color in different lighting)	Chrysoberyl	Chrysoberyl
<b>Carnelian</b>	6½-7	Heat and/or Dye	Reddish brown to orange	Quartz: Chalcedony: Agate	Cornelian, Red Chalcedony, Red Agate
<b>Moonstone</b>	6-6½	None to Rare	Colorless or white to yellowish gray, most with adularescence	Feldspars	Adularia, Selenite
<b>Pearl</b>	2½-4	Can be Dyed, Bleached, or Radiated	An array of colors	Organic	-
<b>Onyx</b>	7	Black Onyx has usually been heat-treated	Comes in several colors and is often banded	Quartz: Chalcedony	-
<b>Ruby</b>	9	Thai Rubies are heat-treated to go from brownish to a more desirable red	Red (Bright red, brownish-red, purplish-red, dark red)	Corundum, Aluminum Oxide	Pigeons Blood
<b>Sapphire</b>	9	Most are heat-treated	Blue, yellow, green, white, colorless, pink, orange, brown, and purple (all colors except red, since the red version is a Ruby)	Corundum	Padparadschah (orange-pink Sapphire), Blue Alexandrite, Ultralite

## August and September Gemstones

Common Name	Mohs Scale	Common Enhancements	Natural Colors	Family	AKA
<b>Peridot</b>	6.5	Rare to none	Greener types are commonly called Peridot, while green/yellow types are called	Olivine (from Fayalite and Forsterite)	Topazion, Topazos, Topazius, Chrysolite, Evening Emerald, Olivine

			Chrysolite		
<b>Sardonyx</b>	7	Heating	Reddish-brown with black and/or white bands	Chalcedony; Quartz; Agate; Onyx	Carnelian Onyx
<b>Sapphire</b>	9	Most are heat-treated	Blue, yellow, green, white, colorless, pink, orange, brown, and purple (all colors except red, since the red version is a Ruby)	Corundum	Padparadschah (orange-pink Sapphire), Blue Alexandrite, Ultralite
<b>Lapis Lazuli</b>	5.5	Occasionally oiled; often dyed	Brilliant blue with violet or greenish tints, and always containing crystals of Pyrite	Feldspathoid	Lazurite (not to be confused with Lazulite)

Common Name	Pronunciation	Folklore / Interesting Facts	Found In	Caring For
<b>Peridot</b>	pair-a-doe	Perhaps the name comes from the French word <i>peridot</i> , meaning unclear.  Mentioned (as its Hebrew name of <i>pidtah</i> ) in the bible.  Cleopatra's favorite gemstone.	Zagbargad Island; Myanmar (aka Burma); Pakistan; Brazil; Germany; Mexico; Ethiopia; Australia; Arizona; Hawaii	Basic gemstone care
<b>Sardonyx</b>	sar-dawn-icks	A combination of Sard and Onyx.  Because of the layers, this gem is often used in cameos.  The most famous Sardonyx in history was a cameo of Queen Elizabeth's portrait that was set in the famous ring which she gave the Earl of Essex as a pledge of her friendship. When sentenced to death, Essex sent this ring to his cousin, Lady Scroop, to deliver to Elizabeth. By mistake the messenger gave the ring to Lady Scroop's sister, Countess Nottingham, an enemy of the Earl; the vengeful Countess did not deliver the talismanic ring, and in consequence the fated Earl was executed. The Countess Nottingham confessed this act of vengeance to Elizabeth when the Countess was on her death-bed; which, according to the chroniclers of Elizabeth's life history, so infuriated the Queen that she shook the dying noblewoman, saying, "God may forgive you, but I cannot."  Sardonyx is one of the twelve gemstones set in the foundations of the city walls of Jerusalem.	Pakistan mainly, also worldwide	Rub lightly with a soft polishing cloth; also polishing with a dab of olive oil will increase shine
<b>Sapphire</b>	saff-ire	Star Sapphire (asterism in the Sapphire) occurs when the stone contains Oriental rutile crystal inclusions.	Sri Lanka; India; Tanzania; Russia; North Carolina; Brazil; China	Have it cleaned by a professional or use lukewarm water with a mild, soapy solution
<b>Lapis Lazuli</b>	la-piss la-zoo-lee	The name means <i>blue rock</i> .  Lapis Lazuli is distinguished from similar Sodalite by two things; one is the inclusion of Pyrite in Lapis, and the other is a lesser amount of Calcite (the white streaks you see in Sodalite).  "Denim Lapis" shows more Calcite.  A paint pigment referred to as "ultramarine" used to be created by grinding Lapis into powder.  Used as protection from the Evil Eye.	Afghanistan	Ultrasonic and chemical exposure can damage lapis, as can impact and abrasion

To be continued...

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