



Gemstones Fact Sheet

Gemstones are becoming increasingly popular as everyone wants something more individual and to reflect their personality.

The majority of gemstones are minerals, with the exception of coral and pearls being of animal origin and amber and jet originating from plants. Only a small percentage of the 3,000 minerals found on the earth are gemstone quality due to their beauty, colour, rarity and durability. Where gemstones were once divided into semi-precious and precious categories, this is no longer the case as new discoveries have added new varieties to the traditional choices of ruby, sapphire and emerald. The more unusual gemstones have become quite valuable because of their beauty and rarity. For example, alexandrite or tsavorite can be more valuable than lesser quality diamonds of the same carat weight.

The choices of fine quality gems include alexandrite, amber, amethyst, aquamarine, chrysoberyl, citrine, garnet, iolite, jade, kunzite, lapis lazuli, moonstone, opal, peridot, tanzanite, topaz, tourmaline, tsavorite, turquoise and zircon. Each stone has its own particular colour and identity.

Like diamonds, several factors affect the value of a gemstone.

COLOUR: There is no right or wrong colour, but the strength and purity of the colour is important. You should choose your gemstone according to your own personal taste.

CUT: The way a gemstone is cut affects the richness of the colour, which is the beauty of the stone that attracts the eye.

CLARITY: Completely flawless gemstones are rare, but the amount of inclusions is important to the overall look of the stone. So compare several to find the perfect one for you.

CARAT WEIGHT: Gemstones are measured in the same way as diamonds, one carat equals 0.20 grams. Gemstones are cut more for colour so the weight of the stone is important for comparison. Even though the stones may look the same size from above, the depth of them may be different.

If you would like to have a look at some gemstones or have further explanation, please come see us at 25 Old North Road, Clare or phone 8842 1888.

From the team at



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