

THE MANY
COLORS OF SAPPHIRES

A HANDBOOK



AnpéAtelier cph
JEWELLERY

COLORS OF SAPPHIRES

ONE of the common misconceptions around sapphires is that they only come in the color blue. However, the amazing thing about these stones is that they come in virtually every color of the rainbow.

Sapphires allow you to have something that is completely unique and one of a kind, as no one sapphire is the same as the next. The vast array of choice in terms of color means that you can find something that fits your specific style.

One of the most incredible things about sapphires is that, if untreated, their intense color can be completely natural. Our team works with sapphires everyday and we are all astounded by what nature can create!

In this booklet we will dive deeper into the incredible array of colors sapphires can be, how they get their color, as well as determining price and rarity.



The ring holds an unheated hexagon bi-color sapphire in a fancy cut set with another bi-color sapphire, alexandrite and purple and yellow sapphire.

SAPPHIRES OF ALL COLORS

COLOR is one of the most important aspects when shopping for a sapphire, and it is also the most complex.

Gem cutters, also known as lapidaries, almost always cut gemstones in a way that enhances and emphasises the best qualities of that individual stone, such as its luster, fire, and luminescence. Cutting the gemstone in a way that accentuates its natural color normally makes the stone more valuable.

There are four important elements that make up gemstone color: *Hue, saturation, tone and coverage.*

COVERAGE

Coverage simply refers to the consistency and evenness of color throughout the stone.

SATURATION

Saturation is a stone's *brightness* and *intensity*. This can range from dull to vivid. The more vibrant and saturated the stone, the higher the value.

HUE

The *hue* is the initial color of the stone. Sapphires, for example, come in any color or tone you can think of. Some colors are more valuable than others, such as *bi-color and color changing* sapphires. Amazingly, bi-color sapphires are stones that harbour two different colors as a result of color zoning. Color zoning happens when conditions of the trace elements which color the stone, change, making the stone incredibly unique and rare. Color changing sapphires are exactly as they sound; stones that change between colors in different lighting. They are incredibly rare and drive a high price if they are of good quality.

tone

A gem's *tone* is the depth of color present within the stone, ranging from light to dark. Both light and dark tones of the same stone can have an equal value to each other.



This ring is set with an unheated pink peach sapphire on 1.06ct, VS1 diamonds in a halo around the stone and with a pink sapphire and VS diamond on each side on the band as well.

COLOR AND PRICE

COLOR is one of the aspects that affects the price of a sapphire the most. The rarer the color, the more expensive it becomes. If a sapphire is natural in color, meaning it has had no artificial treatments then the value increases. The same thing happens when a stone is highly saturated and has an even hue. This means that it is a high quality and valuable stone.

The rarity of a sapphire's color also plays an important role in the pricing. For example, finding a padparadscha sapphire, a unique orange and pink stone, over the weight of 2 carats is a real rarity, and can even surpass the price of a diamond in similar size.

However, sapphires, just like other products and resources, have a supply and demand relationship.

For example, the most common gem-grade corundum is the blue sapphire. Sapphires come in all the colors of the rainbow, with certain colors rarer than blues. This might make you wonder why blue sapphires are so valuable, and the answer is because traditionally, many people desire deep blue sapphires over yellow or green ones. It is that exact demand that drives up the price of blue sapphires.



This ring holds an incredible dark teal sapphire stone, set in 18kt. yellow gold. It has a fitted band that holds blue and teal sapphires.

HOW DO SAPPHIRES GET THEIR COLOR?

ONE of the best things about choosing a sapphire is that the color choice is endless - you will be able to find any color that you desire.

A sapphire's color varies due to the chemical makeup within that specific stone. Sapphires are categorized as the element corundum, which are made up of aluminum oxide and have traces of elements such as iron, titanium, and chromium among others.

A sapphire's color depends on the presence of different metal impurities present within the chemical makeup. For example, blue sapphires are blue because there are traces of titanium in them, and

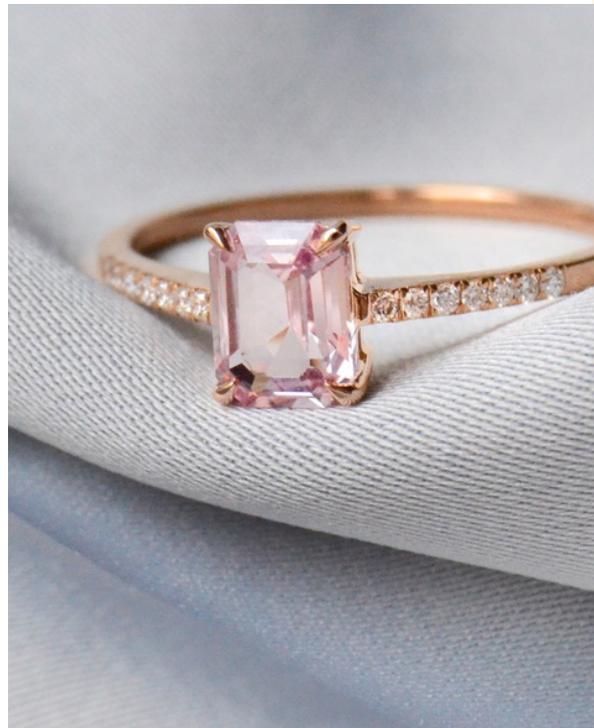
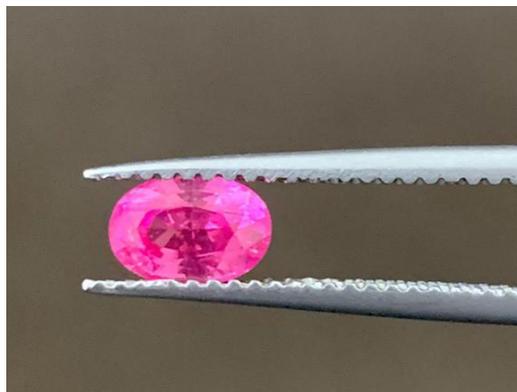
rubies are red because of the element chromium.

The color scheme for sapphires is vast. You cannot simply find a green sapphire that is representative of all green sapphires. There can be infinite shades and hues of green sapphires, which is why sapphire jewellery is so unique.

At Anpé, we source and handpick our own gemstones, and we always make clear to customers that sapphires are one of a kind due to their color. We will never be able to find an exact match to a previous stone within a design.

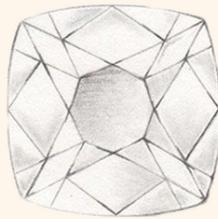


This ring holds a 1.27ct oval blue sapphire, set with VS1 diamonds in 18kt yellow gold.



PINK SAPPHIRES

Pink sapphires are made up of the element corundum. Trace elements of chromium are what make the pink color occur.



Pink sapphires are most popularly found in Sri Lanka, Myanmar and East Africa.

Rubies are essentially pink sapphires that have a high amount of chromium, causing a deeper red color to occur.

Pink sapphires have become more readily available since deposits were discovered in Madagascar in the 1990s. Before that, they were known to be very rare.

YELLOW SAPPHIRES

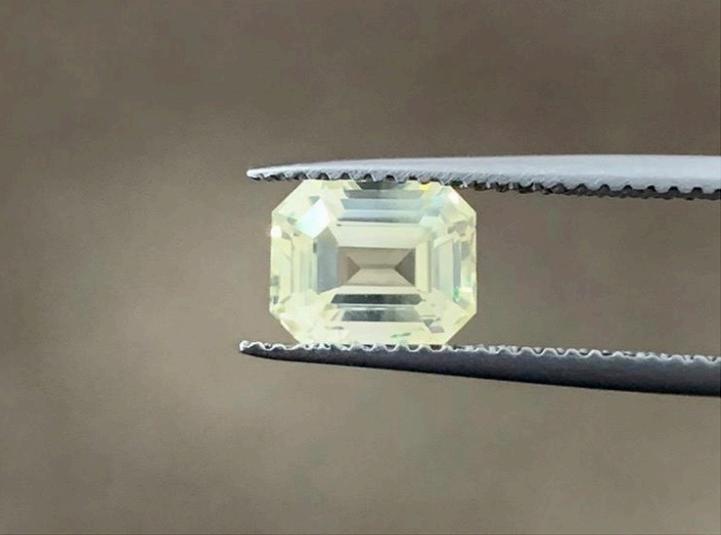
Yellow sapphires are made from the element corundum. What gives them their yellow color, however, is having the trace element iron.

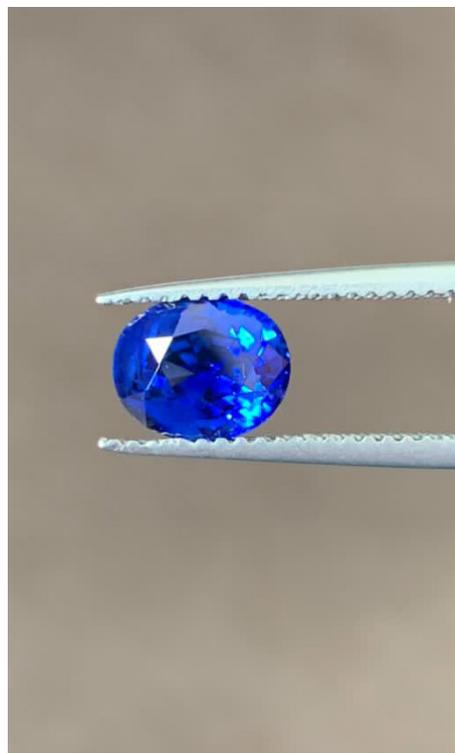
Yellow sapphires can be found in Thailand, Australia, Tanzania and Madagascar. However, Sri Lanka is the primary source for these beautiful stones.



Yellow sapphires tend to have fewer inclusions than other sapphires.

The most sought after yellow color for a yellow sapphire is known as canary, which is a medium, vibrant tone.

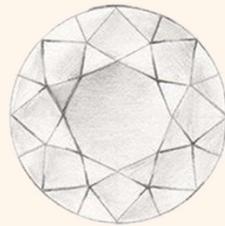




BLUE SAPPHIRES

Blue sapphires are the most well known of the sort. They are traditional and have been used throughout royal jewellery collections for centuries.

Blue sapphires are made from the element corundum, however it is titanium and iron that cause the blue color to occur.



The most notable producer of fine blue sapphires is Sri Lanka or "Ceylon" as referred to within the trade (Ceylon was the former name of the country). They can also be found in Madagascar, Kashmir and Nigeria, among other places.

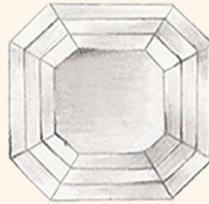
The most valuable blue sapphires come in a velvety blue to violetish blue, in medium to medium-dark tones.

GREEN SAPPHIRES

Green sapphires are mined in several continents, however, Sri Lanka produces the rarest green sapphires — often featuring a vibrant green color.



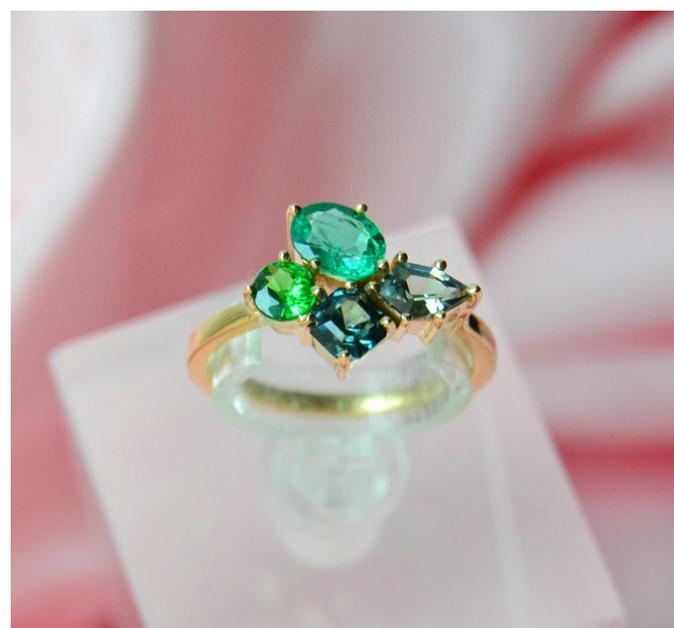
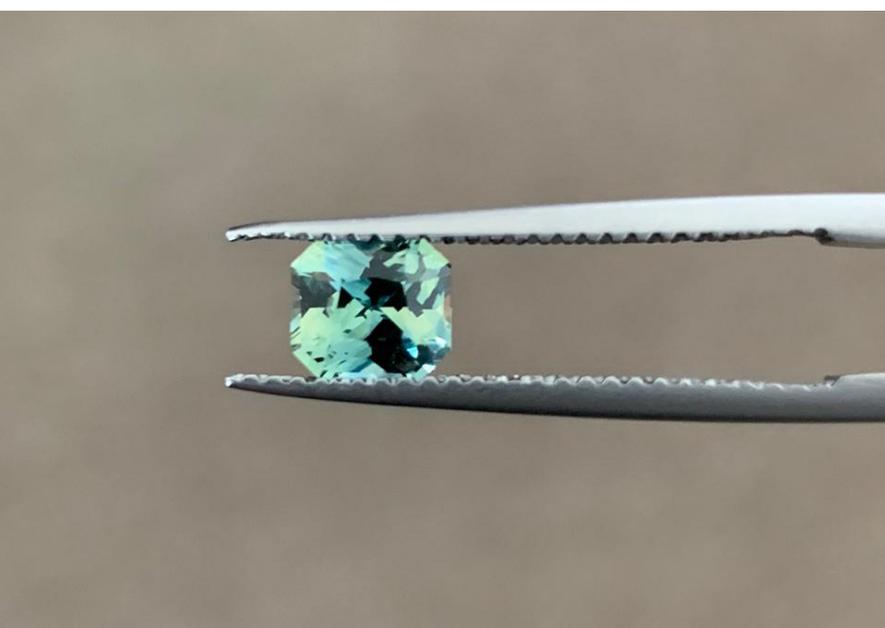
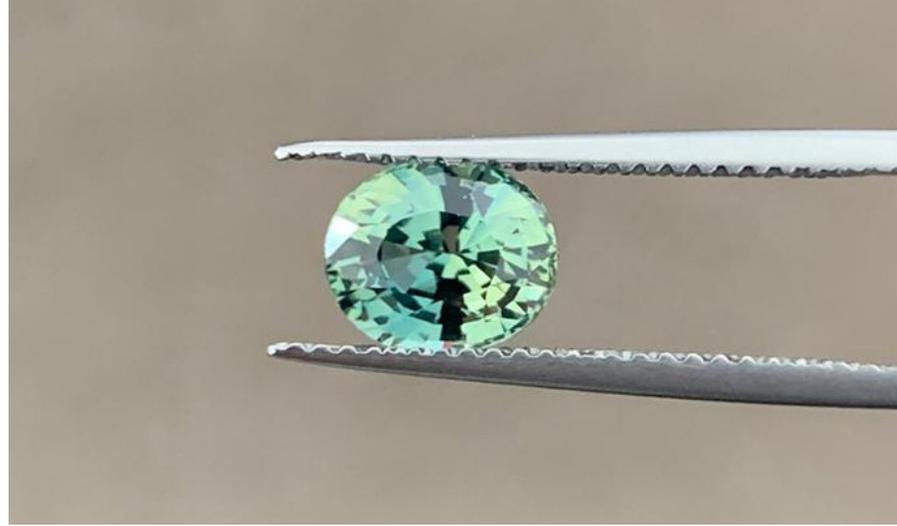
Emeralds tend to be more vivid green in color and command a higher price per carat than green sapphires. One of the key differences between a sapphire and an emerald is their hardness and durability.

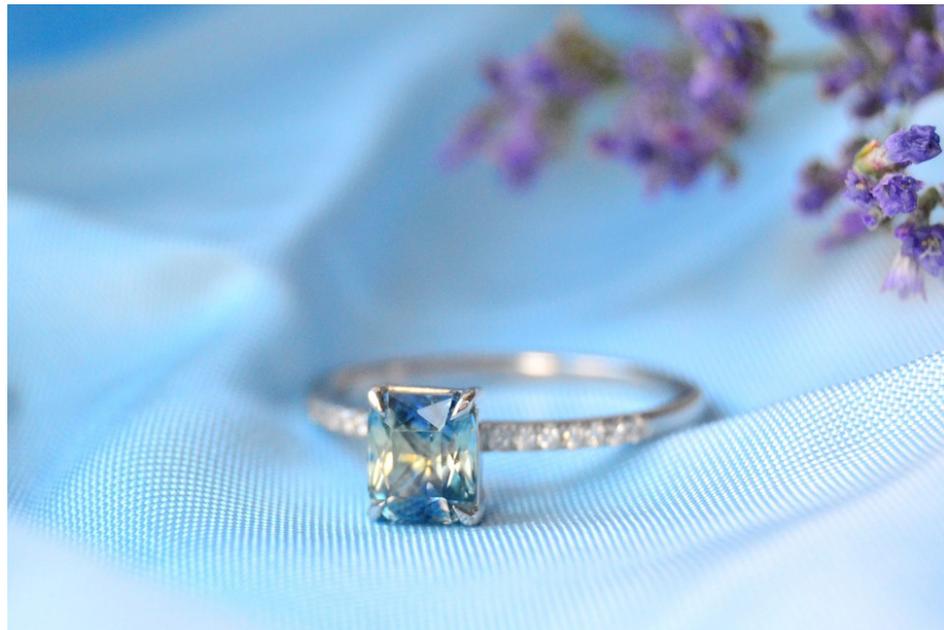


Sapphires have a hardness rating of 9 on the Mohs scale, whereas emeralds are softer, meaning they are more easily damaged than sapphires.



Green sapphires are made from the element corundum, however it is iron that causes the green color to occur.

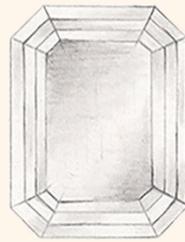




BI-COLOR SAPPHIRES

Bi-color sapphires are stones that contain two different colors, which occurs through color zoning. Color zoning is when conditions of the trace elements change during the crystal formation.

Natural bi-color sapphires are incredibly rare and can be on the more expensive side.



Bi-colors come from a variety of locations including Ceylon (as Sri Lanka is known in the gem world), Madagascar, Tanzania and Thailand. The deposits are always relatively small.

These gemstones can range from dramatic color zoning with two very different colors present in the stone, to slight color zoning which shows two very similar, but slightly off colors in one stone.

TEAL SAPPHIRES

Strictly speaking gemologically, teal sapphires don't exhibit color change under different sources of light. However, their reflection patterns in natural and artificial lights produce a partial, subtle change.



Teal sapphires contain two of nature's most majestic colors: deep ocean blue and vivacious green.

These stones can be found in Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Ethiopia and Australia, among other places.



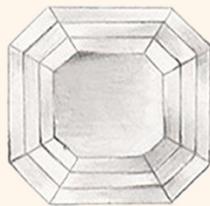
TEAL SAPPHIRES



COLOR CHANGING
SAPPHIRES

COLOR CHANGING SAPPHIRES

Traces of metal impurities in the sapphire, such as chromium and vanadium, are responsible for the color change.



Color change sapphires are stones that exhibit different colors in different lighting conditions, giving you two very exciting colors under the right conditions.

When gem experts judge color-change sapphires, they rank the color change as weak, moderate, or strong. The strength of the stone's color change is the most important quality factor affecting its value, followed then by the actual color of the stone.

PURPLE SAPPHIRES

Purple sapphires are sometimes referred to as violet or lavender, and are slightly less common than other colors.



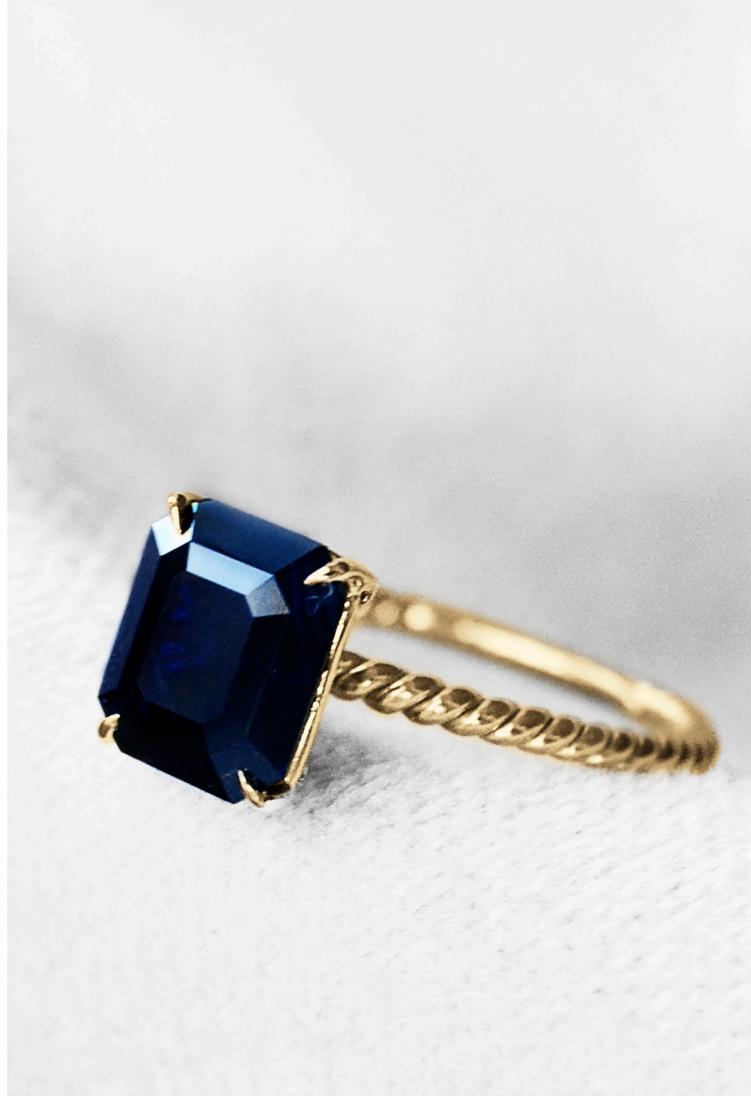
Purple sapphires come in a beautiful range of purple tones. Because of this, they rarely have the need for color enhancing treatments.

Purple sapphires are made from the element corundum, however it is chromium that causes the purple color to occur.



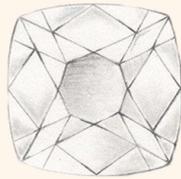
PURPLE SAPPHIRES

BLACK SAPPHIRES



BLACK SAPPHIRES

Black sapphire is a nearly opaque stone whose color is so dark that it appears to absorb all light that enters the gemstone.

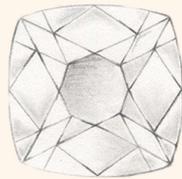


Because of their deep hue, black sapphires do not reflect light as well as other colored sapphires.

Because of its color, black sapphire is often confused with onyx. However, black sapphires are harder on the Moh's scale than onyx, making it more durable for everyday wear.

PEACH SAPPHIRES

Most of the gem-quality, larger sized peach sapphires are found in Sri Lanka and Madagascar, with others being found in Tanzania.



Peach sapphires hold a very special place within the category of unique and rare sapphires. They have an array of hues, ranging from pinker tones to orange tones.

Clarity is a very important element for peach sapphires, as the light tones of pastel shades easily reveal inclusions. Any presence of cloudiness can dull the color and brilliance of the stone.



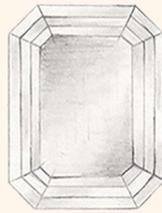
PEACH SAPPHIRES



ORANGE SAPPHIRES

ORANGE SAPPHIRES

Orange sapphires are quite rare, and are some of the most difficult sapphires to find in a natural, untreated state.

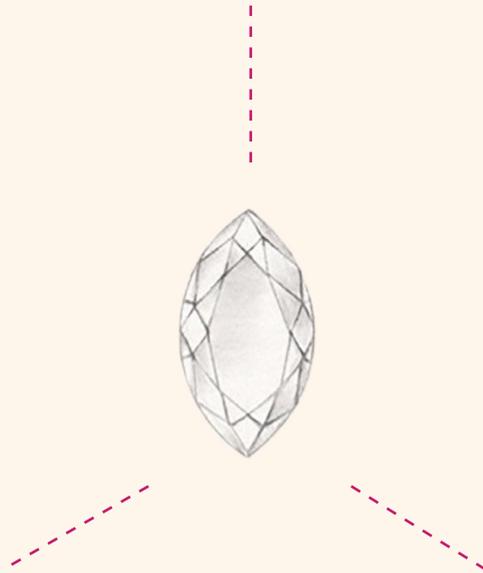


Orange sapphires range from light pastel oranges to vivid orangish-reds due to their blend of red and yellow hues .

Of all orange sapphires seen in the marketplaces of websites and jewelry stores, 99.999% will be treated with extreme heat to produce the vibrant orange color. That is why a natural, unheated orange sapphire is considered so rare.

RUBIES

Fine-quality rubies over one carat are very rare and price goes up significantly as size increases.



Scientifically speaking, rubies and sapphires are the same mineral (corundum). Both are made of alumina and oxygen, but they just differ in color. When a corundum is red, it is classified as a ruby, and when it's another color it is called a sapphire.

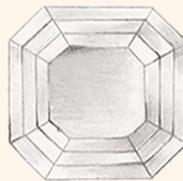
Color is the most significant factor affecting a ruby's value: Fine gems are a pure, vibrant red to slightly purplish red.





PADPARADSCHA SAPPHIRES

Padparadscha sapphires are one of the rarest of sapphires, and contain a unique mix of orange and pink.

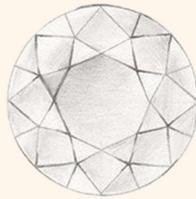


Padparadscha sapphires are mainly found in Sri Lanka, as well as Madagascar and Tanzania.

With Padparadschas, a medium saturation is often more highly regarded, since these gems are expected to be pastel in color and tone.

GREY & WHITE SAPPHIRES

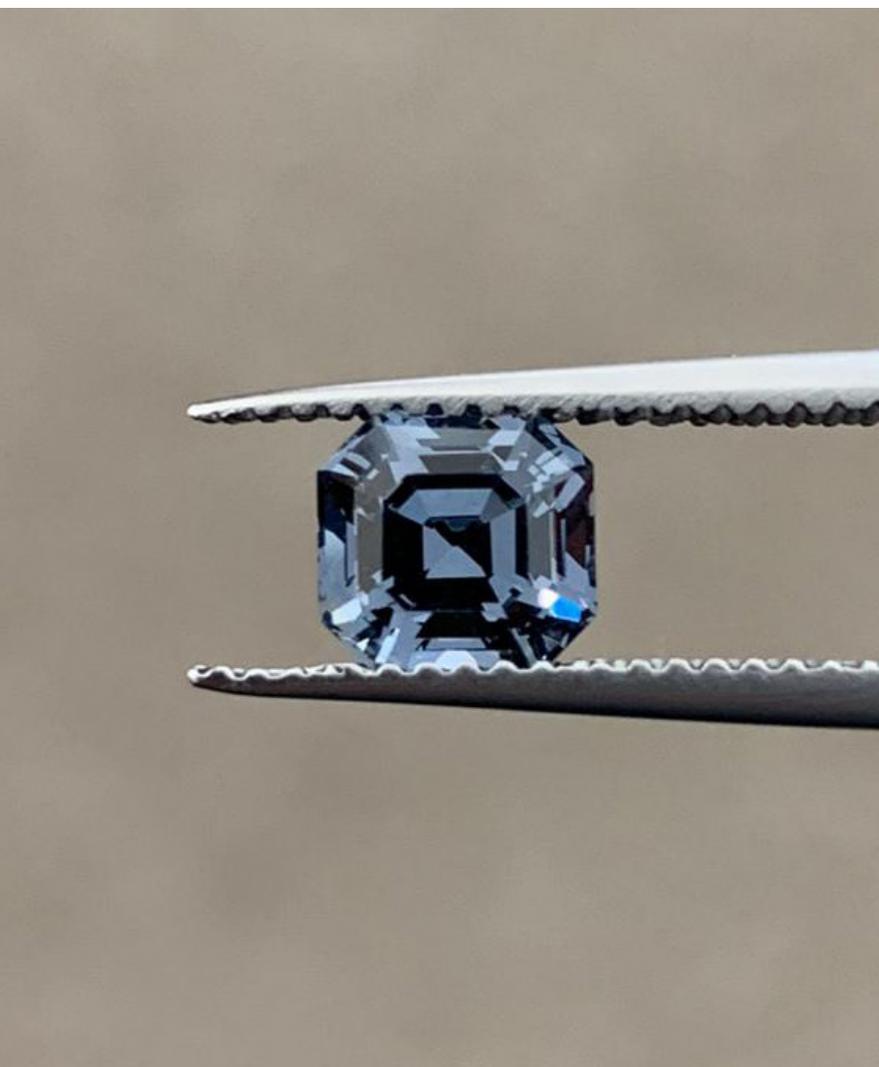
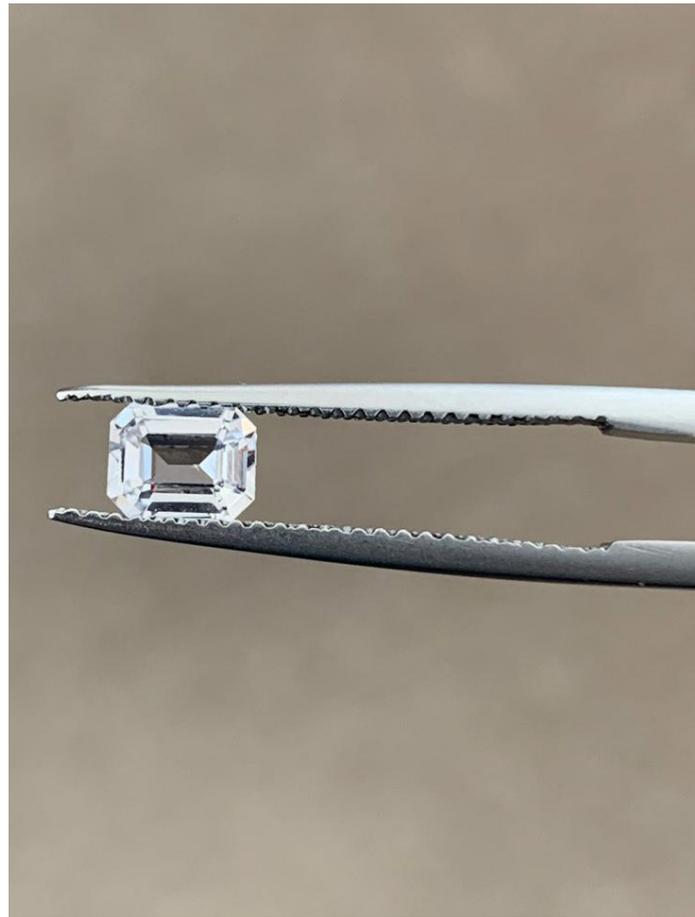
White sapphires are completely colorless sapphires, where as grey sapphires are near colorless, with traces of black throughout.



White sapphires can be used as an alternative to diamonds. They rank at an 9 on the Moh's hardness scale, just below diamonds. 9 is still a high score and means that sapphires are durable enough for everyday wear.

Sapphire get their color from different trace elements, such as iron, however, white sapphires are completely untouched by trace elements.

GREY & WHITE SAPPHIRES





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