

























Follow the guidelines in this Gemstone Cleaning Chart to properly care for and clean your gemstone beads and jewelry.

Gemstones require different cleaning methods based on their hardness, this chart lists the recommended cleaning methods for each stone in order to achieve desired results.

| Cleaning Gemstones | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|---------------|---|--------------|---------|---|-----------------|
| | Gemstone | Toughness | Mohs Hardness | Steaming | Ultrasonic | Boiling | Soap | Untreated Cloth |
|  | Alexandrite | Excellent | 8-1/2 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | Amazonite | Poor | 6 - 6 1/2 | Never | Never | Never | Safe | Yes |
|  | Amber | Poor | 2 - 2 1/2 | No | No | No | Luke-warm soapy water is safe. Do not use a brush because it may leave scratches. | Yes |
|  | Amethyst | Good | 7 | Risky | Usually Safe | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | Apatite | Fair | 5 | Never | Risky | Never | Safe | Yes |
|  | Aquamarine | Good | 7 1/2 - 8 | Usually Safe (unless it contains feathers or fractures) | Usually Safe | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | Aragonite | Fair - Poor | 3 1/2 - 4 | Never | Never | Never | Usually Safe | Yes |
|  | Calcite | Fair - Poor | 3 | Never | Risky | No | Cool soapy water is safe | Yes |
|  | Carnelian | Good | 7 | No | Usually Safe | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | Citrine | Good | 7 | No | Usually Safe | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | Coral | Fair | 3 1/2 - 4 | Risky | Risky | No | Yes | Yes |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------|--------------|-------|---|-----|
|  | <u>Chrysocolla</u> | Poor | 2 to 4 | No | No | No | Luke-warm soapy water is safe. Do not use a brush because it may leave scratches. | Yes |
|  | <u>Cubic Zirconia (CZ)</u> | Good | 8-1/2 | Safe | Safe | Safe | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Diamond</u> | Good | 10 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
|  | <u>Diopside</u> | Poor | 5 1/2 - 6 | Never | Risky | No | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Emerald</u> | Poor - Good | 7 1/2 - 8 | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | <u>Fluorite</u> | Poor | 4 | Never | Never | Never | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Garnet</u> | Good | 7 - 7 1/2 | No | Usually Safe | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | <u>Howlite</u> | Fair | 3 - 3 1/2 | Risky | Risky | Never | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Iolite</u> | Fair | 7 - 7 1/2 | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | <u>Jade, Jadeite</u> | Exceptional | 6 1/2 - 7 | Safe | Safe | Safe | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Jade, Nephrite</u> | Exceptional | 6 - 6 1/2 | Safe | Safe | Safe | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Kyanite</u> | Poor | 4 - 7 1/2 | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | <u>Labradorite</u> | Poor | 6 - 6 1/2 | Never | Never | Never | Safe | Yes |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------------------------------|-----|
|  | <u>Lapis Lazuli</u> | Fair | 5 - 6 | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | <u>Malachite</u> | Poor | 3 1/2 - 4 | No | No | No | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Moonstone</u> | Poor | 6 - 6 1/2 | Never | Never | Never | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>New "Jade"</u> | Poor | 2 1/2 - 6 | Risky | Never | No | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Olive "Jade"</u> | Poor | 2 1/2 - 6 | Risky | Never | No | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Opal</u> | Very Poor - Fair | 5 - 6 1/2 | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | <u>Pearl</u> | Poor | 2 1/2 - 4 | No | No | No | No | Yes |
|  | <u>Peridot</u> | Fair - Good | 6 1/2 - 7 | No | Risky | No | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Rainbow Moonstone</u> | Poor | 6 - 6 1/2 | Never | Never | Never | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Rhodochrosite</u> | Poor | 3 1/2 - 4 1/2 | No | No | No | Cool Soapy Water | Yes |
|  | <u>Rhodonite</u> | Poor - Good | 5 1/2 - 6 1/2 | Safe | Usually Safe | No | Warm Soapy Water | Yes |
|  | <u>Ruby</u> | Excellent | 9 | Yes | Yes | No | Lukewarm Soapy Water is safe. | Yes |
|  | <u>Sapphire</u> | Excellent | 9 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|------|-----|
|  | <u>Serpentine</u> | Poor | 2 1/2 - 6 | Risky | Never | No | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Shell</u> | Fair | 3 1/2 | Risky | Risky | Risky | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Sodalite</u> | Poor | 5 - 6 | Risky | Never | Never | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Spinel</u> | Good | 8 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | <u>Sunstone</u> | Poor | 6 - 6 1/2 | Never | Never | Never | Safe | Yes |
|  | <u>Tanzanite</u> | Poor | 6-7 | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | <u>Topaz</u> | Poor | 8 | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | <u>Tourmaline</u> | Fair | 7 - 7 1/2 | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
|  | <u>Turquoise</u> | Poor - Good | 5 - 6 | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| | <u>Zircon</u> | Poor - Fair | 6 - 7 1/2 | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |

Toughness:

Toughness is a material's resistance to breakage. The combination of hardness and toughness largely defines the durability of a gemstone.

Hardness:

A measure of a mineral's hardness and its resistance to scratching, invented by Austrian mineralogist, Friedrich Moh. The scale goes from talc (number 1) being the softest, to diamonds (number 10), being the hardest substance known by man.