

Gemstone Cleaning Chart guidelines 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 to achieve desired results.

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

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Coral	Fair	3 1/2 - 4	Risky	Risky	No	Yes	Yes
Chrysocolla	Poor	2 to 4	No	No	No	Luke-warm soapy water is safe. Do not use a brush because it may leave scratches.	Yes
Cubic Zirconia (CZ)	Good	8-1/2	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Yes
Diamond	Good	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Diopside	Poor	5 1/2 - 6	Never	Risky	No	Safe	Yes
Emerald	Poor - Good	7 1/2 - 8	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Fluorite	Poor	4	Never	Never	Never	Safe	Yes
Garnet	Good	7 - 7 1/2	No	Usually Safe	No	Yes	Yes
Howlite	Fair	3 - 3 1/2	Risky	Risky	Never	Safe	Yes
Iolite	Fair	7 - 7 1/2	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Jade, Jadeite	Exceptional	6 1/2 - 7	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Yes
Jade, Nephrite	Exceptional	6 - 6 1/2	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Yes
Kyanite	Poor	4 - 7 1/2	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Labradorite	Poor	6 - 6 1/2	Never	Never	Never	Safe	Yes
Lapis Lazuli	Fair	5 - 6	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Malachite	Poor	3 1/2 - 4	No	No	No	Safe	Yes
Moonstone	Poor	6 - 6 1/2	Never	Never	Never	Safe	Yes
New "Jade"	Poor	2 1/2 - 6	Risky	Never	No	Safe	Yes
Olive "Jade"	Poor	2 1/2 - 6	Risky	Never	No	Safe	Yes
Opal	Very Poor - Fair	5 - 6 1/2	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Pearl	Poor	2 1/2 - 4	No	No	No	No	Yes

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Peridot	Fair - Good	6 1/2 - 7	No	Risky	No	Safe	Yes
Rainbow Moonstone	Poor	6 - 6 1/2	Never	Never	Never	Safe	Yes
Rhodochrosite	Poor	3 1/2 - 4 1/2	No	No	No	Cool Soapy Water	Yes
Rhodonite	Poor - Good	5 1/2 - 6 1/2	Safe	Usually Safe	No	Warm Soapy Water	Yes
Ruby	Excellent	9	Yes	Yes	No	Lukewarm Soapy Water is safe.	Yes
Sapphire	Excellent	9	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Serpentine	Poor	2 1/2 - 6	Risky	Never	No	Safe	Yes
Shell	Fair	3 1/2	Risky	Risky	Risky	Safe	Yes
Sodalite	Poor	5 - 6	Risky	Never	Never	Safe	Yes
Spinel	Good	8	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Sunstone	Poor	6 - 6 1/2	Never	Never	Never	Safe	Yes
Tanzanite	Poor	6-7	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Topaz	Poor	8	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Tourmaline	Fair	7 - 7 1/2	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Turquoise	Poor - Good	5 - 6	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Zircon	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.