

MOHS HARDNESS

The Mohs hardness scale measures the relative hardness of gemstones, as determined by their scratch hardness (the resistance of a mineral when scratched with a pointed testing object.)

The diamond is the hardest natural gemstone in the world and measures a ten on the hardness scale. Gemstones measured at a one can be easily scratched with a fingernail. To learn the hardness of many popular gemstone materials, see the chart below.

Scale	Hardness	Material
1	Can be scratched easily with a fingernail	Sulfur: 1 - 1-1/2
2	Can be scratched with fingernail	Amber: 2 - 3 Ivory: 2 - 4
3	Can be scratched with coin	Pearl: 3 - 4 Coral: 3 - 4 Malachite: 3-1/2 - 4
4	Can be scratched easily with a knife; cannot scratch glass	Rhodochrosite: 4
5	Can be scratched with a knife; can just scratch glass	Lapis Lazuli: 5 - 6 Turquoise: 5 - 6 Opal: 5-1/2 - 6-1/2
6	Can be scratched with a steel file; easily scratches window/bottle glass	Moonstone: 6 - 6 1/2 Tanzanite: 6-1/2 - 7 Peridot: 6-1/2 - 7 Zircon: 6-1/2 - 7-1/2
7	Easily scratches metal, glass, and softer stones	Quartz, Citrine, and Amethyst: 7 Tourmaline: 7 - 7-1/2 Garnet: 7 - 7-1/2 Emerald: 7-1/2 - 8
8	Scratches quartz and softer stones	Topaz: 8 Alexandrite: 8-1/2
9	Scratches topaz and softer stones	Ruby: 9 Sapphire: 9
10	Scratches ruby	Diamond: 10