



GIA®

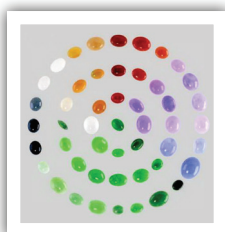
JADE



In China jade is the “stone of heaven”.

Jade is an umbrella term for two minerals: jadeite and nephrite.

Prized by cultures since antiquity, today it’s jadeite that has the most value.



JADE COLOR

Although jadeite comes in lavender, orange, and other hues, its most desirable color is a very specific shade of green.

TIPS AND ADVICE

WORK WITH A JEWELER YOU TRUST.

Judging the quality of jade requires significant expertise. Look for gemological credentials. A jeweler who knows and loves jade will have a wide selection to show you so you can see quality differences side by side.

JADE TEXTURE

Jadeite’s texture can be fine, medium, or coarse, depending on variations in crystal size and hardness.



LOOK AT THE BACK OF THE PIECE.

Cabochons that are hollowed out are less valuable than solid or double cabochons that are domed on both sides. Hollowing out a cabochon can make the piece of jadeite look more transparent. Pi discs should be finished nicely on both sides.



JADE TRANSPARENCY

The best jadeite is semi-transparent, meaning the text you can read through it would be slightly blurred.

JEWELRY MADE FROM ONE PIECE OF JADEITE IS MORE VALUABLE.

Cutting shapes like bangles or rings from a single piece of jadeite wastes more rough so these types of pieces, called hololiths, are more expensive than jewelry made from several pieces.

JADE CARAT WEIGHT

The value of jade cabochons, beads, and bangle bracelets rises with an increase in size, all other quality factors being equal.



IF IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS.

Vivid, sleek, and translucent, magnificent jadeite commands some of the highest prices among gems in today’s international market. As a result there is a large supply of treated and imitation material on the market, as well as natural materials that are similar.



JADE CUT

The finest-quality jadeite is usually cut into cabochons for use in rings and other jewelry. Jade can also be carved into incredibly detailed decorative items.

WHEN IN DOUBT, GET A LAB REPORT.

For a significant purchase an independent laboratory report can confirm that the jade you are buying is natural and will indicate if there are any treatments present.

FAQ

Q: IS JADEITE FROM BURMA BANNED FROM THE UNITED STATES?

A: The Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE (Junta’s Anti-Democratic Efforts) Act of 2008 prohibits United States imports of jadeite and ruby from Myanmar, even if the gems are processed in, and exported from, another country. The ban does not apply to gems that were previously exported from the United States for personal use, as long as the re-imported material was not altered in any way, nor does it prevent the sale of Burmese gems already in the United States.

Q: DOES JADE COME IN PINK AND BLUE?

A: Jadeite is available in lavender but not pink. Rare examples of Guatemalan jadeite in a blue color do exist. Terms like pink jade or Mexican jade, Alaska jade, Transvaal jade, or Japanese jade generally refer to other minerals, which may be green or other colors.

Q: WHAT IS “B” JADE?

A: In a classification system that is used in Hong Kong, “B” jade refers to jadeite that has been bleached with acid and then impregnated with polymer resin. “A” jade refers to jadeite that is either untreated or treated with wax only and “C” jade refers to dyed material.

Q: WHY ARE JADE BANGLES SO SMALL?

A: Traditionally jade bangles are worn all the time. They are generally made to fit more tightly than gold bangles so they won’t clank against tables but will stay close to your wrist. To more easily fit a small bangle over your hand, put a plastic bag over your hand and slide the bangle over it. Use the same technique to remove the bangle.

GIA exists to connect people to the understanding of gems.

As a long-standing scientific authority, GIA is not only a unique source for gem knowledge, its grading reports inspire confidence wherever they appear.

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