



## GARNET



Garnets are a set of closely related minerals that form a group, resulting in gemstones in almost every color. It helps to know the range of color for each mineral species in the group.



### GARNET COLOR

Pyrope and almandine range in color from purplish red to orangy red. Spessartine comes in many orange colors, while andradite comes in yellow to green. Grossular has a wide color range, from colorless

through yellow to reddish orange and orangy red, to a strong, vibrant green.

### TIPS AND ADVICE

#### FIND A RETAILER THAT CAN SHOW YOU A VARIETY OF GARNETS.

To appreciate the rainbow of garnets available, you have to see them. Find a retailer who can show you tsavorite, rhodolite, and one of the orange garnets. You'll be surprised at how beautiful fine garnet can be.

#### CONSIDER UNUSUAL COLORS LIKE PURPLISH PINKS.

Garnets come in some unusual variations in hue and tone which sometimes categorizes them in between known varieties. These gems can offer good value and are interesting as well as beautiful.

#### DON'T COMPROMISE ON CUT.

The quality of the cut can make a big difference in beauty and brilliance. Your garnet should sparkle in a lively way, reflecting light back evenly across the entire gem. Poorly cut gems are much less marketable and sell at a discount.

#### WHEN IN DOUBT, GET A LAB REPORT.

For a significant purchase, an independent laboratory report can confirm that the garnet you are buying is what the seller says it is.

### GARNET CLARITY

Garnet clarity usually depends on its species. For example, the red garnets almandine, pyrope, and rhodolite typically do not have eye-visible inclusions. Some of the orange garnets, like spessartine and hessonite, often have eye-visible inclusions.



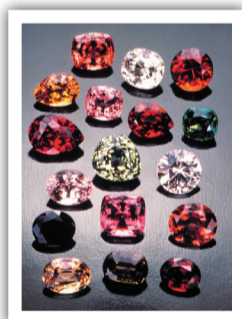
### GARNET CUT

Many garnets are cut into standard shapes and standard sizes to allow easy setting into jewelry. This is especially true of many red garnets.

Expensive garnets like fine-quality tsavorite are cut into shapes and cutting styles that allow more of the weight to be retained from the rough

### GARNET CARAT WEIGHT

Garnets can be found in all shapes and sizes. Some garnets, like demantoid and tsavorite, are more rare in large sizes, so their value goes up significantly. Other garnets, like almandine, are far more common in larger sizes so there's no dramatic rise in value as size increases



## FAQ

**Q: IS THERE A RED GARNET THE COLOR OF RUBY?**

**A:** Garnets do come in a pure red hue but they are rare in sizes over a half carat. It is much more common to see garnets with a significant brown component to the red or a very dark tone that is perceived as black reflections especially where the garnet absorbs light.

**Q: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO GREEN GARNETS: TSAVORITE AND DEMANTOID?**

**A:** Although the green colors of tsavorite and demantoid overlap, they are different minerals in the garnet group. Tsavorite is green grossular and demantoid is green andradite. Andradite is softer than grossular but has a higher refractive index and higher dispersion

**Q: DOES A HORSETAIL INCLUSION GUARANTEE RUSSIAN ORIGIN?**

**A:** Not all Russian demantoids have these famous chrysotile inclusions. Horsetails are also seen in demantoid from Iran and Italy but not in ones from Namibia or Madagascar.

**Q: WHAT'S AAA QUALITY GARNET?**

**A:** Although individual companies might create their own quality descriptions, like AAA, AA, A to denote the range of quality of their goods, no standard quality grading scales exist for garnet.

GIA exists to connect people to the understanding of gems.

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