



## EMERALD

Emerald is the bluish green to green variety of beryl, a mineral species that includes aquamarine. The most valued variety of beryl, emerald was once cherished by Spanish conquistadors, Inca kings, Moguls, and pharaohs. Today, fine gems come from South America, Africa, and Central Asia.

### EMERALD COLOR

Color is the most important quality factor for emerald. The most desirable emerald colors are bluish green to pure green, with vivid color saturation and tone that's not too dark. The most-prized emeralds are highly transparent. Their color is evenly distributed, with no eye-visible color zoning.



### TIPS AND ADVICE

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

Natural emerald generally has inclusions. A well-priced gem that appears flawless in clarity is considered suspect as it is likely to be a synthetic or simulant.

#### WORK WITH A JEWELER YOU TRUST.

Judging the quality of emerald requires expertise. Look for a jeweler with gemological credentials. A jeweler who knows and loves emerald will have several to show you so you can see different qualities side by side.

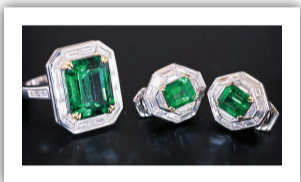
### EMERALD CLARITY

Emeralds typically contain inclusions that are visible to the unaided eye. Because of this, jewelry trade members and some consumers understand and accept the presence of inclusions in emeralds. Eye-clean natural emeralds are especially valuable because they're so rare. Most emeralds are treated with oil, resin, and/or polymers to reduce the appearance of inclusions and surface reaching breaks.



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

For a significant purchase, a report from an independent laboratory like GIA can confirm that the emerald you are buying is natural and will specify whether the extent of treatment is minor, moderate, or significant.



### EMERALD CUT

The most popular cut is a square or rectangular step cut called the emerald cut. This cut maximizes the

shape and weight of the natural emerald crystal. Well-cut stones maximize the beauty of the emerald's color to create a bright, lively stone.

#### AVOID ULTRASONIC CLEANERS AND CONSIDER A SETTING THAT PROTECTS THE GEM.

While fillers do not harm emeralds, they can be removed or altered by ultrasonic cleaning, alcohol, and even jewelry repair. Emeralds are not your everyday ring stones. If you choose to set your emerald in a ring, consider a bezel setting or surround it with other accent gemstones to protect it from blows.

### EMERALD CARAT WEIGHT

Fashioned emeralds come in a wide range of sizes. There are emeralds in museums and private collections that weigh hundreds of carats.

At the other extreme are tiny emeralds that weigh fractions of a carat.

Quality-for-quality, the price of emerald can rise dramatically as the size increases.



## FAQ

#### Q: DOES GIA GRADE EMERALDS?

A: GIA doesn't grade emeralds. GIA Identification Reports assess the characteristics of an emerald (weight, measurements, shape, cutting style and color), state whether it is natural or synthetic, and disclose detectable treatments. GIA can also issue an opinion on geographic origin, when possible.

#### Q: ARE EMERALDS FROM COLOMBIA WORTH MORE?

A: While Colombia is considered the premier source for fine quality emeralds, every mine produces a wide range of quality. For gems of exceptional quality, an independent determination of origin from a respected laboratory like GIA adds to its provenance.

#### Q: HOW MUCH IS MY EMERALD WORTH?

A: Emerald value can range from a few dollars to tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars per carat, depending on quality and size.

#### Q: CAN I BUY AN UNTREATED EMERALD?

A: Yes but high quality, untreated emeralds are rare. A report like the GIA Identification Report will confirm whether or not an emerald has been treated.

#### Q: DOES THE TYPE OF FILLER IN AN EMERALD'S FRACTURES MATTER?

A: The type of filler is not as important as knowing whether the emerald has been treated and how heavily treated it is. Because the emerald could have been filled several times with different substances, GIA does not identify the filling material. GIA Identification Reports do quantify the amount of filling material present.

#### Q: WHAT IS A "CREATED" EMERALD?

A: Synthetic emeralds are generally marketed with the name of the company and the word "created" rather than synthetic. "Laboratory-grown," "laboratory-created," "[manufacturer's name]-created" or "synthetic" are all permitted to describe man-made materials in the FTC Guides for the Jewelry Industry.

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.

For more information on GIA visit: [www.4Cs.gia.edu](http://www.4Cs.gia.edu)

