



## RUBY

Ruby is the most valuable variety of the corundum mineral species, which also includes sapphire. This gemstone can command the highest prices of any colored gemstone. For fine quality rubies, the per-carat prices have been rising consistently, many times breaking auction records.

### RUBY - COLOR

Color is the most important quality factor for ruby.

The finest rubies have a pure, vibrant red to slightly purplish red color. A color that's too orangy or too purplish is considered less desirable.

The highest-quality rubies have vivid color saturation that is not too dark.



### TIPS AND ADVICE

#### WORK WITH A JEWELER YOU TRUST.

Judging the quality of ruby requires expertise. Look for the jeweler's gemological credentials. A jeweler who knows and loves ruby will have several to show you so you can see quality differences side by side.

#### DON'T CONFUSE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN WITH QUALITY.

Even the best mines produce low-quality material. Where a ruby comes from is no guarantee of value or quality. Fine-quality rubies can come from several countries.

#### ASK ABOUT TREATMENT.

Most rubies have been heated, and some gems on the market also have had color diffused into the surface or fractures filled with lead glass to improve their appearance. When shopping, ask about treatment information in writing.

#### USE WARM SOAPY WATER TO CLEAN YOUR RUBY.

As a variety of corundum, rubies are relatively tough and typically resistant to the effects of heat, light, and common chemicals. Most can also withstand cleaning with ultrasonic and steam cleaners. However, rubies that have been fracture-filled, cavity-filled, or dyed should only be cleaned with a damp cloth. Be sure you know how your ruby was treated so that you can care for it properly.

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

A report from an independent laboratory like GIA will confirm that the ruby you are buying is natural or synthetic and tell you whether there is evidence of treatment.

### RUBY - CLARITY

People in the trade expect rubies to have at least some inclusions because inclusion-free rubies are rare. Ruby value depends on how visible the inclusions are. Obvious inclusions or inclusions that reduce transparency or brightness can lower a ruby's value.



### RUBY - CUT

Several factors affect the cut and proportion of rubies on the market. A ruby's crystal shape dictates its suitability for certain cuts. Ruby crystals often have a flat tabular hexagonal shape, but crystals from some sources can be elongated.

### RUBY - CARAT WEIGHT

Rubies are available in a wide range of sizes, but fine-quality rubies over one carat are very rare and, not surprisingly, very expensive.



## FAQ

#### Q: DOES GIA GRADE RUBIES?

A: No, GIA doesn't grade rubies. GIA Identification Reports assess the characteristics of a ruby (weight, measurements, shape, cutting style and color), state whether it is natural or synthetic, disclose any detectable treatments, and give an opinion on geographic origin, when possible.

#### Q: IS A BURMA RUBY WORTH MORE?

A: While Burma is considered the premier source for fine quality rubies, every mine produces a wide range of quality. Fine quality rubies with documentation of Burmese origin from an independent laboratory like GIA command a premium in the market. Currently it is illegal to import Burmese rubies into the U.S.

#### Q: DOES HEAT TREATMENT AFFECT THE VALUE OF RUBY?

A: Yes, all types of treatments (heat, diffusion and glass filling) will impact value. You should assume your ruby is heated. Rubies with a report from an independent laboratory like GIA that confirms there is no evidence of heat command a premium due to their rarity. Rubies that have been diffused or that are glass filled are worth less than heated rubies.

#### Q: WHAT'S A "CREATED" RUBY?

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

#### Q: WHAT IS THE BLOCK BURMESE JADE ACT OF 2008?

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.

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