A: While heating is an accepted treatment for sapphire, it still needs to be disclosed. For fine quality sapphires, it is important to understand the range of colors available. Overly dark blue or greenish-blue colors and less saturated colors like grayish-blue or yellow are more affordable than vivid colors.

Q: HOW DOES HEAT TREATMENT AFFECT A SAPPHIRE’S VALUE?
A: Lattice diffusion is a treatment process that uses heat and chemicals to diffuse an element into a sapphire to artifically change its color. Lattice diffusion treated sapphires can be any color. In some cases the added color is shallow. In others, it goes all the way through the gemstone.

Q: HOW DOES LATTICE DIFFUSION AFFECT A SAPPHIRE’S VALUE?
A: Sapphire treated by lattice diffusion often have vivid color but they are less valuable than sapphires that have only been heated.

Q: HOW DOES HEAT TREATMENT AFFECT A SAPPHIRE’S VALUE?
A: Heat treatment is the most commonly used treatment for sapphire. Many sapphires on the market, both blue and fancy colors, have been treated with heat, irradiation or lattice diffusion to alter the color. Sapphire treated by lattice diffusion often have vivid color but they are less valuable than sapphires that have only been heated.

Q: HOW DOES HEAT TREATMENT AFFECT A SAPPHIRE’S VALUE?
A: Sapphire treated by lattice diffusion often have vivid color but they are less valuable than sapphires that have only been heated.