



# GIA®

## TOPAZ



Honey yellow. Fiery orange. Cyclamen pink. Icy blue. In warm or cool tones, topaz is a lustrous and brilliant gem. And with sizes and cutting styles to match almost any taste and budget, topaz is truly a gem with universal appeal.

### TOPAZ - COLOR

You may know topaz as an inexpensive gem and may be surprised to learn that blue and green colors are almost always the result of treatment. Topaz comes in many colors, including pinks and purples that rival the finest fancy sapphires. Red is one of the most sought-after topaz colors. The color the trade calls “imperial” is highly prized and very rare. Many dealers insist that a stone must show a pleochroism (the display of different bodycolors from different viewing directions) with a reddish color to be called “imperial” topaz.



### TIPS AND ADVICE

#### SUPPLY AND PRICE PER CARAT ARE DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT COLORS OF TOPAZ.

Blue topaz and colorless topaz are widely available and very affordable. Red, pink and orange colors are rare so they may be harder to find and are comparatively more expensive. You'll need to find a jeweler who has gemological knowledge and expertise to see fine qualities in these rarer colors.

#### “TOPAZ QUARTZ” AND “SMOKY TOPAZ” ARE MISNOMERS.

These confusing names are both varieties of quartz. “Topaz quartz” is citrine, the yellow variety of quartz. When citrine was first discovered, this is what the miners named it. “Smoky topaz” and “burnt topaz” are actually brown quartz. Topaz and quartz are two distinctly different minerals.

### TOPAZ - CLARITY

You'll find faceted blue topaz is almost always free of eye-visible inclusions; however, topaz in rare colors may be included. Depending on the rarity of the color, inclusions may not have a significant impact on value.



#### TOPAZ ISN'T A TOUGH GEM, SO USE CARE WHEN WEARING OR CLEANING IT.

Topaz has a hardness of 8 on the Mohs scale but it has poor toughness so it is best set in a protective mounting, or used in pieces that aren't exposed to much wear, like pendants and pins. If your topaz is treated, avoid prolonged exposure to heat or sunlight, which might cause the color to fade. Use warm, soapy water to clean topaz, and avoid steam, ultrasonic, or abrasive cleaners.

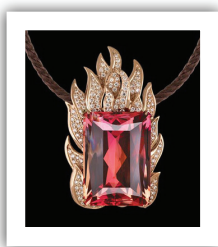


### TOPAZ- CUT

Topaz is cut in a wide variety of shapes and cutting styles: this includes emerald and cushion cuts and all the standard gem shapes such as ovals, pears, rounds, triangular, and marquise, as well as designer-inspired fantasy shapes.

### TOPAZ - CARAT WEIGHT

Topaz can form in large crystals that can yield sizable cut gems. Per carat price for blue topaz rises very little as the size increases. If the color of the topaz is considered rare, per carat price may rise dramatically as size increases.



## FAQ

**Q: HOW DO I KNOW IF A TOPAZ IS “IMPERIAL” TOPAZ?**

**A:** There is no official color definition for “imperial” topaz. Some dealers use the term for colors that are yellowish orange, orangy yellow, yellow, reddish orange to orange-red, others reserve the term for certain saturated shades. It's the color, not the term “imperial,” that gives topaz its value.

**Q: IS PINK TOPAZ FROM PAKISTAN OR BRAZIL MORE VALUABLE?**

**A:** Topaz with a vivid purplish pink is the most rare color of topaz: color is more important than country of origin in assessing quality.

**Q: DOES GIA GRADE TOPAZ?**

**A:** GIA doesn't grade topaz. GIA Gemological Identification Reports identify and assess the characteristics of a mounted or loose topaz (weight, measurements, shape, cutting style and color) and indicate any detectable treatments.

**Q: IS BLUE TOPAZ RADIOACTIVE?**

**A:** National regulations around the world control the release of gems from irradiation facilities to ensure that they meet safety standards. In the United States, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulates the import and release of irradiated topaz. The radiation level in the stones released onto the market is a small fraction of the background radiation that everyone is exposed to every day.

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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