



Garnet (all species)

Definition

This is a group of differently colored minerals with similar chemical composition. The name derives from the Latin for grain because of the rounded crystals. Garnet, in the popular sense, is understood to mean red "garnets", almandine and pyrope, although green garnets like Tsavorite and the connoisseur's garnet Demantoid, are making waves in modern jewelry fashion.

Folklore

1. Pyrope - deep red color. Its name in Greek means "fiery eye." It was the fashion stone of the 18th and 19th centuries. Rhodolite is a variety of Pyrope and is currently very popular because of its beautiful rose-red or violet color.
2. Almandine - red with a violet tint, sometimes confused with Pyrope.
3. Spessartite- red-orange or orange-brown.
4. Grossular (grossularite) Tsavorite is a green subspecies, Hessonite is a brown orange subspecies, Leuco Garnet is a colorless subspecies, Hydrogrossular is opaque or green grossular garnet, and Andradite is the subspecies which has varieties such as demantoid, the most valuable garnet, and melanite and topazolite, valued as gems, but not usually used in jewelry.
5. Uvarovite - rare, intensely green stone.
6. Andradite - this contains iron. It is rarely cut

Since earliest times, garnets have been carried as amulets against accidents in travel.

Asiatic peoples, and even our own Southwest Indians, used them as bullets, believing that their rich, glowing color might cause more deadly wounds. The Persians have given the garnet a favored place as a royal stone, allowing it to bear their sovereign's image. Red garnet was once used to relieve fever, yellow garnet to cure jaundice. If the powder failed, the apothecary was accused of using a substitute.

Trade Names

Almandine, Mozambique, rhodolite, Tsavorite, Demantoid

Treatment

Garnets are usually sold as natural stones with no treatments.

Consumer

To clean garnet jewelry, use a good quality commercial cleaner, rinse and towel dry.

Most jewelry should be professionally cleaned and checked by a qualified jeweler every 3-6 months. Avoid swimming pools and hot tubs or harsh chemicals with any gold jewelry to prevent chemical attack of the gold alloys.

Details

Species	garnet
Specific	3.61 to 4.15
Hardness	6-1/2 - 7-1/2
Toughness	Fair
Refractive	Varies between subspecies
Birefringence	none
Optic Character	varies between subspecies
Pleochroism	none
Flouresence	varies between subspecies
Clarity Type	2

Locations

Many deposits are found world-wide.

Care

Torch	fair
Ultrasonic	good
Steamer	fair
Chemicals	na
Chemical Composition	varies between subspecies
Pickling	fair