

A Guide to Birthstones



Discover birthstone jewellery inspiration - learn the properties, hardness and how to use each gemstone to best effect.

September



Birthstone: Sapphire



Hardness: 9

How to use it: Due to its hardness rating, the sapphire is used for rings as an individual stone, as pairing with other gems may result in scratching.

October



Birthstone: Opal



Hardness: 5.5 - 6.5

How to use it: The opal should be worn by the wearer as often as possible, as opals will show fissures if they are stored in places too dry. They can gain humidity from the air and the skin of the wearer.

November



Birthstone: Topaz



Hardness: 8

How to use it: Topaz occurs in cavities in rhyolites and granite, formed by the vapours given off in the crystallisation of igneous rocks. Its hardness makes topaz a wise choice for rings.

AUTUMN



December



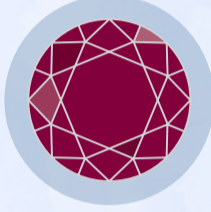
Birthstone: Turquoise



Hardness: 5.5 - 6

How to use it: Brings protection to whoever wears it and is often stabilised before it's cut and set in a jewellery piece due to its soft natural state.

January



Birthstone: Garnet



Hardness: 6.5 - 7.5

How to use it: Garnet is a durable stone very popular in jewellery making – it tends to be designed into smooth cuts, such as oval or cushion cuts, making it ideal for pendants.

February



Birthstone: Amethyst



Hardness: 7

How to use it: Amethyst was often found in rings and on the rosaries worn by bishops and priests. Note that this gem is sensitive to heat – when heated to 400/500 °C, the colour changes to brown-yellow or red.

WINTER



How were the birthstones chosen for each month?

Experts believe it spans back to the Bible in Exodus 28, when the breastplate belonging to Aaron, High Priest of the Hebrews was covered in 12 coloured gems, initially representing 12 tribes of Israel. Later, these gems became associated with the zodiac and months connected to it.

March



Birthstone: Aquamarine



Hardness: 7.5 - 8

How to use it: A subtle blue semi-precious stone. Combine this stone with diamonds for a stunning piece. Heat treatment is commonly used to remove any green tinge seen within a stone.

April



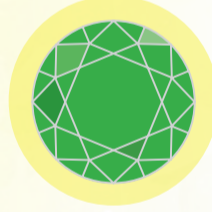
Birthstone: Diamond



Hardness: 10

How to use it: Known as the hardest mineral and therefore the most desirable, Diamonds are the symbol of love. Beyond their obvious use in engagement rings, use diamonds to create jewellery pins for clothes or for decorative hair ornaments.

May



Birthstone: Emerald



Hardness: 7

How to use it: A member of the beryl family, emeralds are known for their exquisite green colour. However, they are very brittle and prone to inclusions making flawless specimens very rare.

SPRING



June



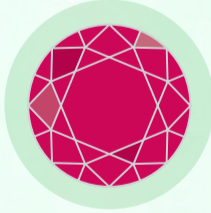
Hardness: Pearl



Hardness: 2.5 - 3.5

How to use it: Naturally occurring pearls are incredibly rare - with only one in ten thousand molluscs able to produce them. That's why most on the market will be cultured pearls - created by placing a piece of tissue inside the mollusc with which it will form a pearl.

July



Hardness: Ruby



Hardness: 9

How to use it: Rubies are perfect for every day wear due to their hardness. Heat treating the stone can clarify and improve the tone of the colour.

August



Hardness: Peridot



Hardness: 6.5 - 7

How to use it: Peridot often appears greener under artificial light. Fairly robust and easy to care for, it's often used as faceted stones in earrings or bracelets.

SUMMER

