



STONE: Chrysoberyl (Alexandrite)

COLORS: Transparent yellowish green to greenish yellow and pale brown

HARDNESS: 8.5

OPTIMAL

CRITERIA: The color, clarity and brilliance of the stone are important as is the depth of the color change. Fine quality stones greater than 5 carats are extremely rare. Alexandrite cat's eye is one of the most rare and most expensive stones. The rich honey yellow color brings the highest price followed by the green stones.

CARE &

MAINTENANCE: Use a soft cloth with water or water and mild soap. Care must always be given to how the stone is handled.

Alexandrite

BACKGROUND: Chrysoberyl derives its name from the Greek word meaning "golden". The stone was first treasured by 1st century Romans, but dropped out of mainstream Western Civilization until the late 19th century. But when the Duke of Connaught gave a cat's eye engagement ring to Princess Louise Margaret of Prussia, it instantly became popular once again.

FOLKLORE: Natives of Sri Lanka and Hindu tradition held that cat's eye protected its owner from the evil eye. According to ancient Asian tradition a cat's eye pressed between its owner's eyes provided foresight to its owner.