



Spinel

STONE: Spinel

COLORS: Red, Orange, Pink,
Blue, Violet, Black

HARDNESS: 8

OPTIMAL

CRITERIA: Color and clarity are important. Red, especially Orange/Red and intense Purple/Red are the most valuable. It is very difficult to find fine clean Spinel larger than 5 cts.

CARE &

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

BACKGROUND: Spinel is often confused with Rubies and Pink Sapphires. They all share the same color agent, have similar chemical composition and are often found near one another. As a result, Spinel has never really been given its due credit. In fact, the most famous Spinel is a 412.25-carat stone in Catherine the Great of Russia's crown, which at the time was believed to be a Ruby.

Today the finest Spinel is found in Burma, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

FOLKLORE: In Medieval times Red Spinel was believed to cure inflammatory diseases as well as inflamed emotions.