



Tourmaline

STONE: Tourmaline

COLORS: Pink through Red, Violet through Red Purple, Blue, Green, and Colorless

HARDNESS: 7 - 7.5

OPTIMAL

CRITERIA: Intensity of color and clarity are the most important criteria since clean Tourmalines can be found in both large (greater than 7 cts) and small sizes.

CARE &

MAINTENANCE: Friction or other pressures to Tourmaline will cause the gemstone to attract dust particles. Therefore, Tourmalines must be cleaned more frequently than other gemstones. Use a soft cloth with water and mild soap. Care must always be given to how the stone is handled.

BACKGROUND: Tourmaline is a popular gemstone, especially in fashion jewelry since it can be easily found in a wide variety of colors and sizes.

FOLKLORE: Tourmalines were first used in India in the 2nd or 3rd century B.C. for headdresses. However, it didn't become a popular gemstone until the late 1800's when Tiffany & Co. began selling the stones. The Dutch first brought Tourmaline to Europe in the early 1700's. They used the gemstone to extract ash from their pipes since heating and then cooling or rubbing the gemstone created an electric current. "Turmalli" or "Tormalli" is the Sinhalese word used in the 1700's for "stone with mixed colors".