How to Care for Lab-Grown Colored Gemstones

Gemstone Care · https://imiyoo.com/FAQ/how-to-care-for-lab-grown-colored-gemstones/

Your favorite gemstone jewelry should be something you enjoy wearing, not something you're afraid to touch. The good news is that caring for most lab-grown colored gemstones is pretty simple.

A gentle cleaning routine and a little attention to how you wear and store your jewelry can go a long way. The one thing to remember is that **different gemstone materials need slightly different care**.

Do lab-grown gemstones need special care?

Not simply because they're lab-grown.

For example, a lab-grown sapphire is corundum, just like a natural sapphire. It has the same defining mineral identity and similar basic durability. A lab-grown emerald is emerald (beryl), so it still deserves the same kind of thoughtful handling you'd give a natural emerald.

The real questions are **what your stone is made of, how it's cut, whether it has any treatments or internal features, and how it's set**.

And one useful distinction: **hardness means resistance to scratching, not resistance to breaking**. Even a hard gemstone can chip if it hits something at the wrong angle.

The easiest way to clean your gemstone jewelry at home

For routine cleaning, start with the gentle approach:

1. **Check the setting first.** If a stone looks loose, a prong is bent, or you notice a crack, stop and have a jeweler inspect it.

2. **Prepare a little lukewarm water with mild dish soap.** Avoid bleach, ammonia, abrasive powders and harsh household cleaners.
3. **Clean gently with a soft brush or cloth.** Work carefully around the stone and setting without pressing on delicate edges.
4. **Rinse in a small bowl of clean water.** Avoid rinsing jewelry directly over an open sink drain.
5. **Pat dry with a soft, lint-free cloth.** Let the piece dry fully before putting it away.

You don't need toothpaste, stiff brushes or aggressive polishing to keep a gemstone looking beautiful. Those can damage the metal or parts of the setting.

If you aren't sure whether your stone has a filling, coating or other treatment, ask before soaking it or using a stronger cleaning method.

Which gemstones need the most care?

All gemstones benefit from careful handling, but their scratch resistance isn't the same.

Gemstone material	Mohs hardness	What to keep in mind
Lab-grown ruby & sapphire (corundum)	9	Excellent scratch resistance; still protect from hard impacts and vulnerable corners
Lab-grown spinel	8	Good everyday scratch resistance; check for fractures and setting damage
Man-made YAG crystal	About 8.25	A hard crystal that can still chip or scratch when handled roughly
Lab-grown emerald (beryl)	7.5–8	More care around hard knocks and cleaning equipment, especially if there are internal features

These are general material properties, not a promise about an individual stone. Scratch resistance is only one part of overall durability.

Lab-grown ruby and sapphire: durable, but not indestructible

Ruby and sapphire are popular choices for jewelry worn often because corundum is hard and resists everyday scratching well.

That makes lab-grown ruby and sapphire practical options for rings as well as earrings and pendants. Still, take your ring off when you're moving heavy objects, exercising with equipment or doing work where you might hit the stone against something hard.

Pay extra attention to **pointed or exposed corners**, such as those on a princess-cut stone. A protective setting can help prevent damage.

For everyday cleaning, warm soapy water and a soft brush work well. Ultrasonic and steam cleaning may be suitable for certain rubies and sapphires, but not for every treated, damaged or delicately set stone. If in doubt, stick with gentle hand cleaning.

Lab-grown spinel: easy to wear, easy to maintain

Spinel has a Mohs hardness of 8 and works well in many jewelry designs. If you love our **Jedi Spinel**, **Cobalt Blue Spinel** or **Aquamarine** color option, the same basic spinel-care advice applies when the selected material is lab-grown spinel.

Our standard Aquamarine color option is **lab-grown spinel, not beryl aquamarine**. If you've requested a lab-grown corundum alternative instead, follow the corundum guidance above.

Clean spinel gently with warm soapy water. Although steam and ultrasonic cleaners can be suitable for some spinels, fractures or fillings can make those methods risky. A soft brush is usually all you need for routine care.

Man-made YAG: protect the stone and the setting

YAG stands for **yttrium aluminum garnet**, a man-made crystal material. It isn't tsavorite garnet or Paraiba tourmaline, even when a color is inspired by those gemstones.

Our **Tsavorite-Style Green** and **Paraiba-Style** options use man-made YAG crystal. YAG offers good scratch resistance, but it's not immune to chips, hard impacts or damage around the setting.

Use mild soap, lukewarm water and a soft cloth or brush. If a stone has visible internal features or you're unsure about its condition, have a jeweler check it before using an ultrasonic or steam cleaner.

Lab-grown emerald: a little extra care makes a difference

Emerald has a Mohs hardness of about 7.5–8. That's enough for beautiful jewelry, including rings, but emerald generally deserves more protection from knocks than ruby or sapphire.

Our **Zambia Emerald** and **Colombia Emerald** color options are **hydrothermally grown lab-grown emerald (beryl)**. Their names describe color styles, not mined origins.

If you're choosing an emerald ring, a setting that protects the corners and doesn't lift the stone too high can be a sensible option.

For cleaning, stay with lukewarm soapy water and a very gentle brush or cloth. **Avoid ultrasonic and steam cleaning unless a qualified jeweler has inspected your specific emerald and confirmed the method is safe.** Emeralds may have fractures, fillings or other characteristics that make aggressive cleaning a poor choice. Don't assume a particular lab-grown emerald has—or doesn't have—such features without checking.

When should you take your gemstone jewelry off?

You don't have to put your jewelry away whenever you leave the house. A few practical habits are usually enough.

It's a good idea to remove gemstone rings before:

- Heavy lifting, gardening, contact sports or using exercise equipment
- Cleaning with bleach, ammonia or other strong household chemicals
- Swimming in chlorinated pools or soaking in hot tubs
- Tasks that could knock the stone against metal, tile or other hard surfaces

These precautions protect the **setting and metal** as well as the gemstone. Gold, silver and platinum jewelry can also be scratched or affected by chemicals.

How should you store gemstone jewelry?

Keep pieces from rubbing against one another. A fabric-lined jewelry box with separate compartments or individual soft pouches works well.

Corundum is hard enough to scratch many other materials. Keeping a sapphire ring loose beside softer gemstones—or beside another piece of jewelry—can leave marks over time.

Before storing a freshly cleaned piece, make sure it's dry. And if you notice a loose prong, a new chip or a stone that shifts in its setting, have it checked rather than continuing to wear it.

Does a lab-grown gemstone's color fade?

For an ordinary, untreated gem, everyday wear doesn't usually cause the kind of color loss you'd see from a surface-painted accessory. That's because the color is generally associated with the crystal material rather than a layer of paint.

But **not all stones, treatments or coatings behave the same way**. Strong heat, chemicals or an unusual treatment may change a gemstone's appearance. If you're unsure about the specific stone, ask before exposing it to harsh cleaning or high temperatures.

Frequently asked questions

Can I wear my lab-grown sapphire ring every day?
Often, yes. Corundum's Mohs hardness of 9 makes it a good choice for frequent wear, but you should still protect the stone and its setting from impacts.

Can I clean all lab-grown gemstones in an ultrasonic cleaner?
No. Some ruby, sapphire and spinel jewelry can be cleaned this way, but the stone's condition, treatments and setting matter. Emeralds need particular caution. Gentle hand cleaning is the safer default when you're unsure.

Do lab-grown emeralds need less care than natural emeralds?
Not automatically. Both are emerald (beryl). The actual stone's internal features, treatments and setting determine the care it needs.

Will soap damage my gemstone?
Mild dish soap diluted in lukewarm water is a good starting point for many colored gemstones. Avoid harsh chemicals, abrasives and strong cleaners. If your piece has unusual treatments, damaged stones or delicate construction, ask a jeweler first.

What if a stone feels loose or looks chipped?

Stop wearing the piece until a jeweler has checked it. Cleaning won't fix a loose setting, and continued wear can make the damage worse.

A final tip

The best jewelry care routine is the one you'll actually follow: **clean gently, avoid hard knocks, store pieces separately and have the setting checked when something doesn't look right**.

And if you're choosing a gemstone for a new custom piece, tell us how you plan to wear it. We can help you compare materials and setting styles so the jewelry fits your everyday life.