

SAPPHIRE INFORMATION

Most sapphires are heated during the processing that takes place from the mine, to lapidaries and marketers. Today it is rare for a sapphire not to have been enhanced by heat. If the words "Enhanced by heat" are used in the "Enhancements" section of this report, this indicates that the sapphire has been subjected to controlled heating during the processing period. Generally, the heating of sapphires is done to improve their color and/or clarity.

Rarely the materials used to protect a sapphire during the heating process may, either accidentally or by design, enter cavities and/or fissures and solidify as a glass. If clearly present in what otherwise would be open fissures or cavities this glass may give a false appearance to the "finish" of the stone and falsify the carat weight. In the "Results" section of this report you will find the statement "Treated Sapphire" if glass is observed as an area of lower surface luster. This will further be explained in the "Comments" section in the following manner:

"Glass is filling what would otherwise be open fissures (and/or cavities) within this stone".

Occasionally corundum with an undesirable color is treated by a surface diffusion process. The required elements are only diffused into the surface area of a preformed, or cut stone. This results in color occurring at and just below the surface. The statement "Surface Diffusion Treated Corundum" will be found in the "Result" section of this report if the blue color of the stone is due to the surface diffusion process. This will be further explained in the "Comments" section.

Occasionally corundum is treated by a surface diffusion process to produce an artificial star effect. The required elements are only diffused into the surface area of a stone cut into the shape of a cabochon. This results in a star effect occurring at and just below the surface. The statement "Surface Diffusion Treated Corundum" will be found in the "Results" section of this report if the star effect is due to surface diffusion. This will be further explained in the "Comments" section.

The person making the submission may sometimes request an opinion on the origin of a stone. If requested, and when possible, this information is given in a section on the front of the report entitled "Origin". This section will not be present if an opinion on origin is not requested. Tests to determine origin involve the observation of inclusions and on occasion the positive identification of these with Raman spectroscopy. Other tests include the analysis of trace element composition and their ratios and UV/visible as well as IR spectroscopy. Given that from any locality a wide range of qualities may be mined, any opinion given on this report regarding the origin of a stone should not be regarded as a guarantee of quality. Not all stones submitted provide the necessary data for an origin to be determined.

Caution: It is possible to enhance or treat a sapphire at any time during its life. Therefore comments regarding treatments and/or enhancements on the front of this report are specific only to the time period that the sapphire was actually within the AGTA Gemological Testing Center. Rechecks may be necessary if a period of time has passed or the sapphire has changed owners.

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