



Steam or Ultrasonically Clean?

Unsure whether to steam or ultrasonically clean? Reference this handy chart when you need to know how to best clean any faceted gemstone.

This chart provides general guidelines for the recommended care of quality gemstones. Tiny fractures in stones, even those unseen by the eye, can cause a stone to crack when an ultrasonic cleaner or steam cleaner is used. Additionally, oil treated and dyed gemstones, and composite gemstones such as doublets or triplets should never be cleaned using steam or ultrasonic methods. Care should always be taken—when in doubt your safest cleaning method is a soft brush with soap and water.

Gemstone	Mohs Hardness	Steam	Ultrasonic
Alexandrite	8.5	Usually	Usually
Amethyst	7	Never	Usually
Apatite	4.5	Never	Not Recommended
Aquamarine	7.5-8	Usually	Usually
Chalcedony	6.7-7	Usually	Usually
Citrine	7	Never	Usually
Coral	3.5-4	Never	Never
Diamond	10	Usually	Usually
Diopside	5.5-6	Never	Never
Emerald	7.5-8	Never	Never
Garnet	7-7.5	Never	Usually
Iolite	7-7.5	Never	Never
Jade	6-6.5	Not Recommended	Not Recommended
Labradorite	6-6.5	Not Recommended	Not Recommended
Lapis	5-5.5	Never	Never
Malachite	3.5-4	Never	Never
Moonstone	6-6.5	Not Recommended	Not Recommended
Morganite	7.5-8	Usually	Usually
Opal	5-6.5	Never	Never
Pearl	2.5-4.5	Never	Never
Peridot	6.5-7	Never	risky
Quartz	7	Never	Usually
Ruby	9	Usually	Usually
Sapphire	9	Usually	Usually
Tanzanite	6-7	Never	Never
Topaz	8	Never	Never
Tourmaline	7-7.5	Never	Never
Turquoise	5-6	Never	Never

The original source of these recommendations was the GIA (Gemological Institute of America).