# Ruby vs Garnet

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## Ruby vs Garnet: Understanding the Difference Between Two Red Gemstones

Ruby and garnet are often compared due to their rich red tones, yet they differ significantly in rarity, value, durability and historical importance. While both are natural gemstones, ruby sits firmly within the world of high jewellery, whereas garnet offers a broader, more accessible spectrum of red stones.

Understanding the distinction between ruby and garnet allows clients to choose a gemstone that reflects not only colour preference, but also longevity, symbolism and investment in craftsmanship.

## What Is a Ruby?

### How Ruby Is Formed

Ruby is a red variety of corundum, formed deep within the earth under extreme heat and pressure. Its red colour is caused by trace amounts of chromium. The same geological family also produces sapphire, though without the red colouring.

### Rarity and Natural Prestige

Fine-quality ruby is one of the rarest gemstones in the world. Large, vividly coloured rubies are significantly rarer than diamonds, contributing to their exceptional value and desirability.

### Treatments

Most rubies are heat-treated to improve colour and clarity, a long-accepted industry practice. Untreated rubies with fine colour are exceptionally rare and command substantial premiums.

# What Is Garnet?

## How Garnet Is Formed

Garnet forms through metamorphic and igneous processes and refers to a group of related minerals rather than a single stone. Red garnets are the most common, though garnets occur in many colours.

## Availability and Variety

Unlike ruby, garnet is widely available and found in many regions across the world. Popular red garnet varieties include almandine and pyrope.

## Treatments

Most garnets are untreated, with colour and clarity naturally occurring.

# Ruby vs Garnet: Appearance and Colour

## Red Hue and Saturation

Ruby displays a vivid, glowing red, often described as “pigeon blood” at the highest quality. Garnet tends to show deeper, darker red tones, often with brown or purplish undertones.

## Light Performance

Ruby reflects light with a lively inner glow. Garnet can appear darker in low light, absorbing more light rather than reflecting it.

# Ruby vs Garnet: Durability and Wearability

## Hardness Comparison

- **Ruby:** 9 on the Mohs hardness scale
- **Garnet:** 6.5–7.5 on the Mohs hardness scale

Ruby is highly resistant to scratches and suitable for daily wear. Garnet, while reasonably durable, is more prone to surface wear and requires greater care.

### Long-Term Wear

Ruby maintains its brilliance and polish over generations. Garnet may show wear more quickly, especially in rings worn daily.

## Ruby vs Garnet: Cost and Value

### What Defines Ruby Value

Ruby pricing is influenced by colour intensity, clarity, carat weight, origin and treatment. Burmese rubies with vivid red colour are among the most valuable gemstones in the world and are often considered heirloom stones.

### What Defines Garnet Value

Garnet is priced primarily by size, clarity and cut. While beautiful, it does not carry the same rarity or long-term value retention as ruby.

## Ruby vs Garnet for Engagement Rings

### Why Choose Ruby

Ruby symbolises passion, strength and enduring love. Its durability and rarity make it an excellent alternative to diamond for engagement rings and bespoke heirloom jewellery.

### Why Choose Garnet

Garnet offers an accessible red gemstone option with rich colour. It is often chosen for statement jewellery or occasional wear rather than lifelong daily rings.

## Ruby vs Garnet in Bespoke Jewellery

### Design Considerations at PureJewels

PureJewels carefully selects rubies for bespoke jewellery, prioritising colour harmony, transparency and provenance. Garnet is used selectively for designs where deeper red tones and expressive character are desired.

### Precious Metal Options

Bespoke ruby or garnet jewellery may be crafted in:

- **18ct yellow or white gold**
- **22ct yellow gold**
- **22ct Sunrise Gold**
- **Platinum**

Ruby pairs particularly well with **22ct Sunrise Gold**, enhancing its warmth and intensity, while platinum offers refined contrast. Garnet often suits **18ct yellow gold** for everyday elegance.

### Transparency and Sourcing

PureJewels is committed to responsible sourcing and full disclosure, particularly for treated gemstones, ensuring clients can choose with confidence.

## Which Is Better: Ruby or Garnet?

Ruby and garnet serve different purposes in fine jewellery. Ruby offers rarity, durability and lasting value, making it suitable for heirloom and engagement jewellery. Garnet provides rich colour at a more accessible price point, ideal for expressive and occasional pieces.

At PureJewels, the choice is guided by meaning, craftsmanship and longevity, ensuring every gemstone is selected with integrity and intention.