

# Chrysoprase

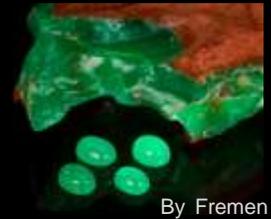
## History/Background

Chrysoprase is an opalescent gemstone variety of chalcedony (a cryptocrystalline form of silica) which contains small quantities of nickel. It is the rarest of the chalcedony group. Its best qualities are often mistaken for jadeite. Its colour is normally apple green, but varies from deep green to blue green but lesser quality stones can also occur in pale greenish-yellow shades. The darker varieties of Chrysoprase are also referred to as prase. The best source of Chrysoprase is Queensland, Western Australia, Germany, Poland, Russia, Arizona, California and Brazil.



By Candata Chrysoprase

This stone has some very interesting stories attached to it, one of them being Alexander the Great was one of the greatest admirers of the stone, and according to legend he always kept a Chrysoprase in his girdle for victory in the many battles he fought.



By Fremem

## Geology /Properties

Chrysoprase is cryptocrystalline, which means that it is composed of crystals so fine that they cannot be seen as distinct particles under normal magnification. This sets it apart from rock crystal and other varieties of crystalline quartz. Other members of the cryptocrystalline silica family include agate and carnelian. Unlike many nontransparent silica minerals, it is the colour of Chrysoprase rather than any pattern of markings that makes it desirable. In the Australian deposits Chrysoprase occurs as veins and nodules with brown goethite and other iron oxides, usually locked in serpentine.



By Neat Stuff

Refractive index	1.53 – 1.54
Hardness	6.5 -7 Mohs scale
Specific gravity	2.58 – 2.65
Crystal System	Trigonal
Crystal Habit	Massive
Fracture	Conchoidal
Luster	Vitreous to Waxy



By Farlang

## Synthetics/Imitations/Treatments

Be careful when buying Chrysoprase because dyed stones are of much lower value. Chrysoprase can also be imitated by chalcedony dyed to a green color, also by glass or plastic.



By Garnazelle

## Evaluation and Use

Beware that the colour of Chrysoprase is susceptible to sunlight and heat. Overexposure to sun has been known to lighten it whereas the colours may recover in moist storage. The better quality Australian material maintains its intensity of colour.

The stone is often cut as cabochons to be used in rings, pendants, earrings etc. Very often, a matrix is attached to the finished stone. Beads are also popular, and it is a very good carving material. It can be opaque to translucent; however the best quality stones are free of matrix, highly translucent and possess a bright green colour similar to imperial jadeite.



By Idazzle

## Cleaning/Care

The best way to safely clean Chrysoprase is with lukewarm soapy water.

## Metaphysical/Astrological Properties

Chrysoprase is associated with the heart chakra and it resonates with the astrological signs of Libra and Cancer. It also vibrates to the number three. A type of chalcedony which is a harmonizing crystal, Chrysoprase possesses some of the characteristics of chalcedony as well as its own unique properties. It brings through the vibration of divine truth and promotes joy and happiness while healing depression and anxiety. It helps to bring acceptance and healing into the cells of the body. Encourages hope, joy, and clarifies problems. It is used to speed the healing of any wound. It is a stone for emotional well being and development of consciousness. It allows one to better experience a peaceful awareness of love, truth and hope. This is a stone for bringing the higher universal energy into the physical existence.



By Aspire Auctions



By ArtFire



By The Godday Gallery