

NOLAN & VADA

THE VIVID PROMISE



The Ultimate Guide to Sapphire Engagement Rings

How to choose the perfect sapphire

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Thinking about something a bit more unique than a diamond?

Your partner is 'the one' and you love all those small things about her. You're just not convinced a diamond engagement ring truly captures her spirit.

Don't worry, you're not alone.

More and more brides are choosing sapphire engagement rings for their uniqueness and durability. With so many colours, shapes and metals to choose from, understandably, it's hard to know where to begin.

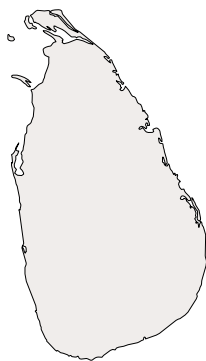


What is a sapphire?

Since ancient times, sapphires have been associated with royalty, tradition, wisdom, and romance. Scientifically, they're known as corundum or aluminium oxide and they are highly desirable due to their excellent colour, hardness (9 on the Mohs Scale), durability and lustre.

Popularly known to be available in gorgeous shades of blue, sapphires occur in a palette of spectacular colours from violets to warm peachy apricot like shades. It's no wonder their unique hues, lasting durability and lustre has seen sapphires regain popularity for engagement rings.

Where do we source our sapphires from?



SRI LANKA

Also known as the sapphire capital of the world, our sapphires from Sri Lanka are sourced from reputable, small scale miners, who employ hand mining techniques.

AUSTRALIA

Known for their strict mining operations and safe working conditions, our Australian sapphires are both beautiful and ethical.



Where do sapphires come from?



NATURAL SAPPHIRES

Sapphires are mined from alluvial deposits — or loose soils that have been reshaped by water across the globe.

ORIGIN

At present, depending on their colour, most of the fine sapphires come from Sri Lanka, Australia, Madagascar and the USA.



ETHICAL & SUSTAINABLE

The Sri Lankan State Gem Corporation ensures strict labour, trade and environmental protocols are met. Allowing small scale hand mining only, so as not to damage or over use the environment.



MINING PRACTICES

Sapphires we sell are usually mined by a small group of artisanal miners working under safe, fair labour, with profits shared between miners and towards preserving the land.



An introduction to colour

ORIGINALLY COLOURLESS

Formed under the earth's crust millions of years ago, rough sapphires are originally colourless, gaining their colour from nearby trace minerals.



COLOURED SAPPHIRES

For example, the presence of chromium is responsible for peach-pink sapphires, while traces of iron and titanium make them appear blue.

RUBY VS. SAPPHIRE

The only shade sapphires do not come in is red, as red corundum is known as Ruby, part of the same family.



SATURATION & HUE

Due to the unique composition of colour, each sapphire has a distinct hue (main colour), tone (lightness or darkness), and saturation (vividness).

BLUE

From light, cornflower, midnight and royal, there are many saturations of blue to consider. We always recommend somewhere between cornflower and midnight for the best saturation for your budget.



TEAL

Spiking in popularity due to their unique hues, teal sapphires come in many shades of blue-green, and are also commonly known as green or parti sapphires.

PEACH & PINK

Commonly known as blush, apricot & champagne sapphires, peach sapphires are increasing in popularity, pairing beautifully with rose & yellow gold.



WHITE

Also known as colourless, white sapphires are the purest form of sapphire and have deep visual resemblances with diamonds, perfect for those looking for an ethical alternative.

OTHER

Although not as popular, shades of yellow, purple and orange sapphires make stunning engagement rings for those who prefer something a bit more vibrant.



Colour

Colour refers to the overall hue, tone and saturation of a sapphire.



HUE

Easy to identify, hue is the overall body colour of the sapphire, the first colour you see. Many sapphires have a secondary hue, eg. a teal sapphire can look blue with a mix of green.

TONE

Tone describes how light or dark your sapphire is. Somewhere between medium to medium-dark is typically the preferred tone for the best brilliance of your sapphire.



SATURATION

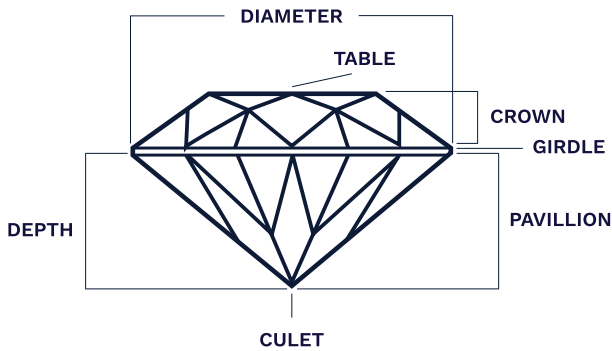
Referring to the chromatic intensity of your stone, saturation is the strength or weakness of the overall colour. The most prized sapphires being highly saturated.



TIP: Always ask for images or video of your sapphire in both natural outdoor and indoor lighting to make the best judgement of colour.

Cut

Cut refers to the facets cut into a sapphire, not to be confused with shape.



BRILLIANCE

The cutting parameters (not the shape) define the overall brilliance and sparkle in the sapphire. Unlike diamonds, there are no standard cuts, each sapphire is uniquely cut to bring out the best colour and lustre of the gem.

SHALLOW OR DEEP CUT

Lighter tone sapphires are typically cut deeper to retain their colour, while darker colours are cut shallower, allowing more light in to best enhance their colour.



BE WARY OF A WINDOW

Windowing occurs when a sapphire has been cut too shallow, creating a clear opening in the middle of the sapphire that you can see through. Ideally sapphires will reflect light back.



Carat

Carat refers to the weight and density of a sapphire.

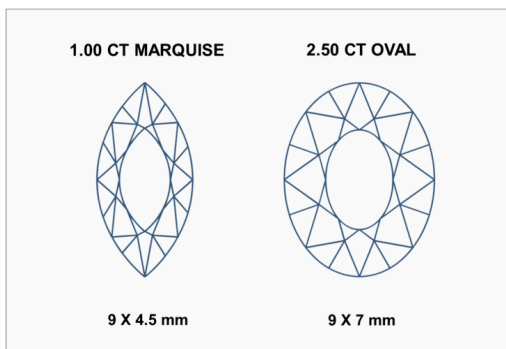


SAPPHIRE VS DIAMOND

Carat size refers to the weight of your gemstone. Comparing sapphires directly to diamonds, sapphires have a higher gravity, meaning a 1.40 carat sapphire will look similar to a 1.00 carat diamond.

THE PERFECT SIZE

Bigger doesn't always mean better, and we've found the perfect size sapphire is relative to her hand size. If she has smaller hands (US4-US6), then a 1-1.5 carat sapphire would look beautifully proportionate.



DIMENSIONS

As all sapphires are cut differently to enhance their best colour, even the dimensions of a 1.00 carat sapphire can be different to another of the same carat weight.

TIP: Due to cutting proportions, some shapes can appear much larger with similar carat weights, eg. a 1.00 carat marquise would look similar to a 2.50 carat oval.

Clarity

Clarity refers to the inclusions present in the sapphire.

SAPPHIRE CLARITY

Clarity refers to the natural inclusions found in your gemstone. These are near impossible to avoid, so we recommend buying sapphires that are classified as 'eye clean', which means they're not visible to the eye and don't affect the overall brilliance of your sapphire.



Eye clean sapphire



Heavily included sapphire

NATURAL INCLUSIONS

A few common types of inclusions that are found naturally in sapphires include; Needles (long thin patterns, often referred to as 'silk'), Mineral Crystals (light or dark crystals trapped within your sapphires, Feathers (white feather-like breaks), and Colour Zoning (uneven patches of colour, usually dark spots) which can disrupt the overall colour.

Sapphire Grading

Sapphire grading refers to the overall quality, including colour, cut and clarity.

WHAT IS AN AAA GRADE SAPPHIRE?

AAA grade refers to sapphires with excellent colour, saturation and hue, are eye-clean (meaning there are little to no visible inclusions to the naked eye), and are ideally cut to bring out the best lustre and brilliance within each gem.

TIP: Always ask for sapphire images in natural lighting to best determine it's quality and colour.



COLOUR

Sapphires that are well saturated in colour, where the tone is not too dark or too light.

CUT

Sapphires that have been ideally cut to bring out their best colour, while avoiding shallow cuts that create 'windowing' - where light falls through the gem instead of reflecting back, or deep cuts where the gem is too dark.



TIP: In our experience, there is no standard definition for any of these grades among vendors, so it's always good to ask vendors what AAA means to them. AAA is the best grade available amongst jewellers.

Sapphire Enhancements



More than a century old process, heat treatment replicates a natural process of heating beneath the earth's crust and permanently improves the colour, lustre and clarity of the sapphire.

It is estimated that over 98% of the sapphires available in the market today are heated to some degree.

TREATMENTS TO AVOID

While heat treatment is an accepted practice for enhancing sapphires, there are a few treatments you should avoid, as these are used to camouflage inclusions, or temporarily enhance a gem, ultimately devaluing your sapphire.

- LATTICE DIFFUSION
- FRACTURE FILLING
- BERYLLIUM TREATMENT



What shape is right for me?

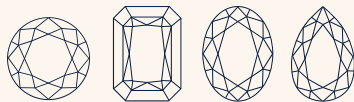
THIN HANDS

If your partner has oval palms and narrow fingers then you're in luck, nearly everything works. Choose a shape according to her style.

Best Options:

Round, Emerald, Oval or Pear.

Avoid: Heart.



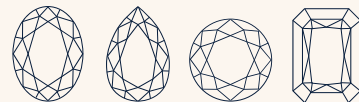
WIDE HANDS

For those with broader hands and wide fingers, a larger sapphire will help to balance your finger width.

Best Options:

Oval, Pear, Round, Radiant.

Avoid: None.



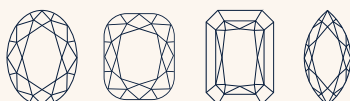
LONG HANDS

If you have longer fingers and rectangular palms your options are endless, with every shape suiting your proportions well.

Best Options:

Oval, Cushion, Emerald, Radiant, Marquise.

Avoid: None.



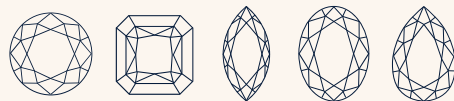
SHORT HANDS

If your partner has square shaped palms or shorter fingers, we recommend a slightly smaller sapphire to balance her proportions.

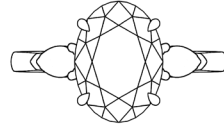
Best Options:

Round, Square, Marquise, Oval or Pear.

Avoid: Emerald and Heart.

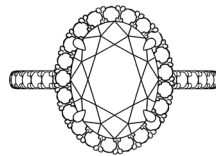


Popular ring designs



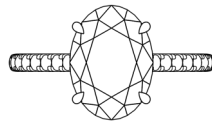
THREE STONE

Signifying past, present, & future, a three stone ring is the perfect design to symbolise your love.



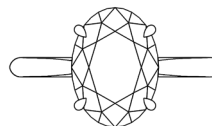
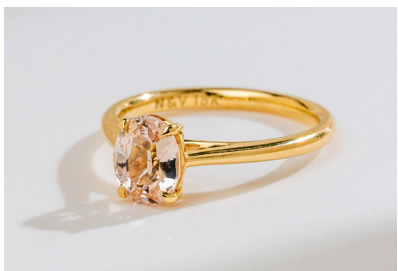
HALO

A crown of diamonds adds definition and elegance to any centre stone, making your stone appear visually bigger & brilliant.



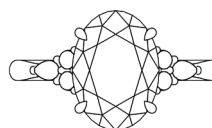
SIDE DIAMONDS

Enhancing the opulence and sparkle of your ring, a band of side diamonds draws your eye to your centre stone.



SOLITAIRE

Allowing your centre stone to take centre stage, a solitaire is a timeless statement that never goes out of style.



CLUSTER

A cluster of side stones is an ode to an era gone by that helps balance your finger, adding a vintage meets modern feel.

How to pick the right style?



THREE STONE

For the romantics at heart, a three stone setting is perfect for those who love something extra meaningful. There are endless combinations of shape to suit your centre stone.

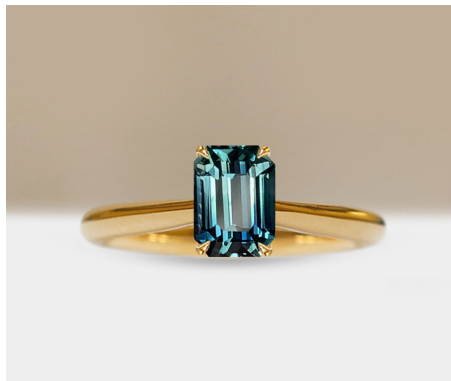
HALO

A perfect choice for those who want extra sparkle, brilliance and overall wow-factor. A bold, confident and timeless design.



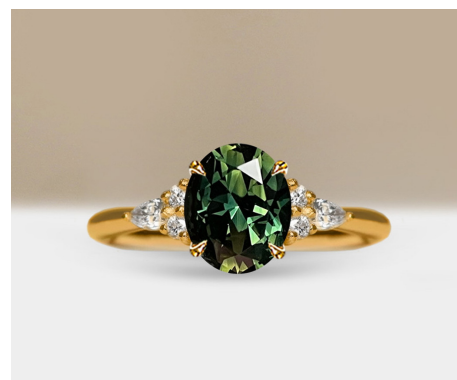
SOLITAIRE

An elegant style that's suited to those who want a no frills design. Solitaires are a perfect option for showcasing your beautifully coloured gem and unique shape.



CLUSTER

Designed with a vintage inspired feel, a cluster style is an ideal choice for those looking for fine details, with endless options for side stone clusters on your band.



Choosing a metal colour?

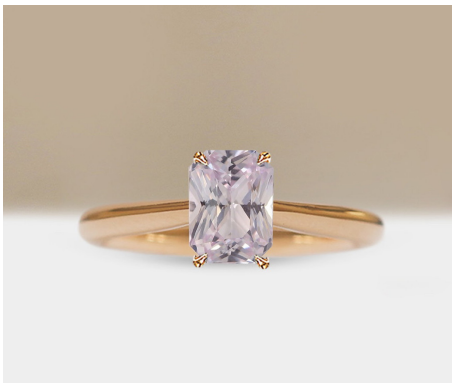
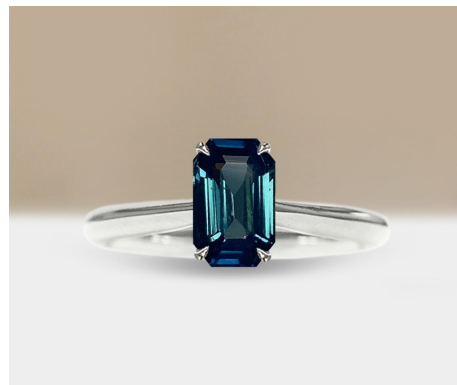


18K YELLOW GOLD

18K Yellow Gold has a beautiful warmth that suits all sapphire colours. Yellow gold pairs well with greens and teals, helping to enhance the warm tones of your sapphire.

18K WHITE GOLD

18K White Gold is a lovely cool toned metal that pairs beautifully with blues, teals and white sapphires. The white undertone of this metal helps your centre stone colour really pop.

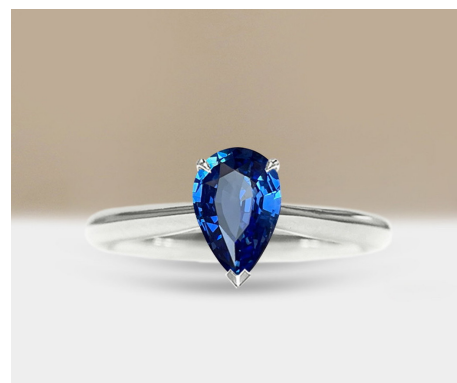


14K ROSE GOLD

14K Rose Gold pairs beautifully with peach and pink sapphires, enhancing the rosy hue of your gem. It also complements blues and teals well.

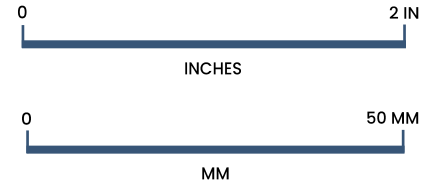
PLATINUM







































































Another cool toned option, Platinum is a hard metal with a white finish that doesn't require any re-plating, making it a great option if your budget allows the slightly higher price.



Ensure the following

- Before printing, set 'Page Scaling' to 100% or none
- Measure the ruler on left to ensure the measurements are exactly 50mm or 2 inches.
- In case the measurement is not accurate, please check print settings and reprint.



APPROX. CARAT WEIGHT	0.30 ct	0.50 ct	0.75 ct	1.00 ct	1.50 ct	2.00 ct	2.50 ct	3.00 ct	4.00 ct
 ROUND	 3.50 mm	 4.20 mm	 5.20 mm	 6.00 mm	 6.50 mm	 7.50 mm	 8.00 mm	 8.50 mm	 9.00 mm
 OVAL	 4.5 X 3.5 mm	 5 X 3.9 mm	 6 X 4.7 mm	 7 X 5.4 mm	 7.5 X 5.8 mm	 8.5 X 6.6 mm	 9 X 7 mm	 9.5 X 7.4 mm	 10.5 X 8.1 mm
 OCTAGONAL	 4.5 X 3 mm	 5 X 3.5 mm	 6 X 4.2 mm	 7 X 4.8 mm	 7.5 X 5.2 mm	 8.5 X 5.8 mm	 9 X 6.2 mm	 9.5 X 6.5 mm	 10.5 X 7.2 mm
 CUSHION	 4 X 3.3 mm	 4.5 X 3.7 mm	 5.5 X 4.5 mm	 6.5 X 5.3 mm	 7 X 5.7 mm	 8 X 6.6 mm	 8.5 X 7 mm	 9 X 7.4 mm	 10 X 8.1 mm
 PEAR	 5 X 3.4 mm	 6 X 4 mm	 7 X 4.7 mm	 7.5 X 5 mm	 8 X 5.4 mm	 9 X 6 mm	 10 X 6.7 mm	 11 X 7.4 mm	 12 X 8.1 mm
 MARQUISE	 6.5 X 3.3 mm	 7.5 X 3.8 mm	 8.5 X 4.3 mm	 9 X 4.5 mm	 10 X 5 mm	 12 X 6 mm	 12.5 X 6.3 mm	 13 X 6.5 mm	 13.5 X 6.8 mm
 PRINCESS	 3.30 mm	 3.90 mm	 4.70 mm	 5.50 mm	 6.00 mm	 6.70 mm	 7.50 mm	 8.00 mm	 8.50 mm

All measurements are based upon ideal cut proportions. Due to variance in height and shape of the pavilion (belly) of sapphires, the carat weight & dimensions can vary greatly.

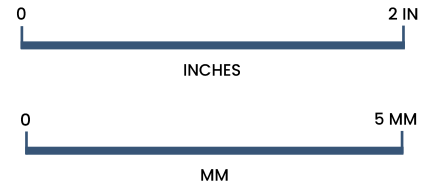
In case you need any help with dimensions and size, please mail one of our consultant on design@nolanandvada.com

Ring Size Guide

Please read all instructions carefully in order to ensure proper measurement

Ensure the following

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- Measure the ruler on left to ensure the measurements are exactly 50mm or 2 inches.
- In case the measurement is not accurate, please check print settings and reprint.



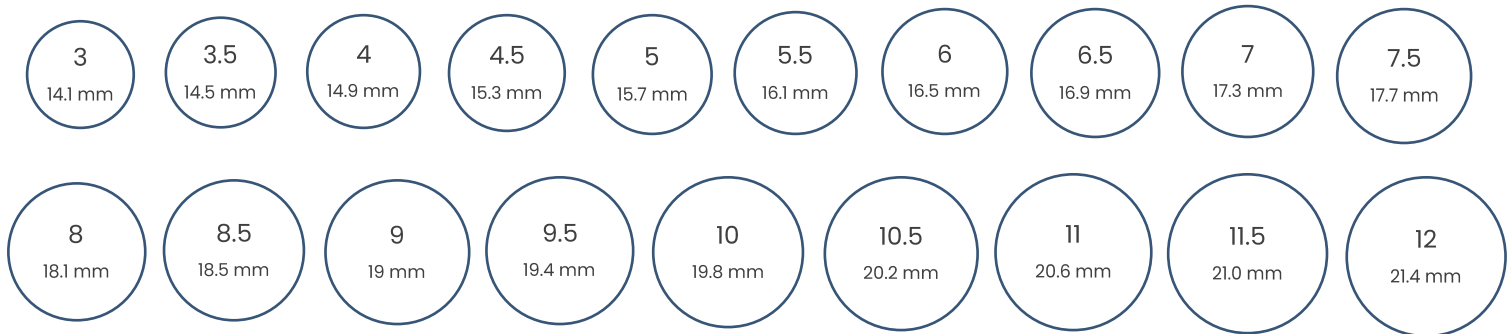
OPTION 1 Measure Your Finger

1. Cut out the ring sizer and cut a slit on the left end of the sizer where indicated.
2. Wrap the sizer in a way the numbers face you and insert the pointed end into the slit you cut, tightening it on the largest part of your finger
3. Read the number that lines up at the slit for ring size. If the line falls between numbers, using our international sizing chart select the correct half or quarter size.



OPTION 2 Measure an Existing Ring

1. Use a ring that fits your intended ring finger
2. Place the ring on top of each circle finding the perfect fit. Match the internal edge of the ring to the circle to achieve the nearest size.
3. Order the larger size if the chosen ring falls between two sizes.



HELPFUL TIPS

1. **Temperature is Key:** Always be sure to measure fingers at the end of the day.
2. **Factor in those Knuckles:** Most of us have slim fingers with larger knuckles, measure both the base of your finger and the width around the knuckles, selecting a size in between.
3. **Cross Check Results:** It is always important to cross check results 3-4 times to rule out any errors.
4. **Select the Larger Size:** If you find the size you're looking for falling between two values, choose the larger size.
5. **Width Matters:** When gauging size, always remember to keep in mind the width of the band. Thicker bands tend to have a tighter grip as compared to slimmer bands.
6. **Lefty or Righty:** Hand dominance tends to affect the finger size resulting in slightly larger proportions. Thus in accordance to tradition, don't forget to measure her left ring finger.

International Ring Size Chart

Inside Diameter (MM)	United States & Canada	UK, Australia & New Zealand	EUROPE
14.1	3	F	44
14.3	3.25	F½	
14.5	3.5	G	45
14.7	3.75	G½	46
14.9	4	H	
15.1	4.25	H½	47
15.3	4.5	I - I½	48
15.5	4.75	J	
15.7	5	J½	49
15.9	5.25	K	
16.1	5.5	K½	50
16.3	5.75	L	51
16.5	6	L½	
16.7	6.25	M	52
16.9	6.5	M½	53
17.1	6.75	N	
17.3	7	N½	54
17.5	7.25	O	
17.7	7.5	O½	55
17.9	7.75	P	56
18.1	8	P½	
18.2			
18.3	8.25	Q	57
18.5	8.5	Q½	58
18.8	8.75	R	
19	9	R½	59
19.2	9.25	S	
19.4	9.5	S½	60
19.6	9.75	T	61
19.8	10	T½	
20	10.25	U	62
20.2	10.5	U½	63
20.4	10.75	V	
20.6	11	V½	64
20.8	11.25	W	
21	11.5	W½	65
21.2	11.75	X	66
21.4	12	X½	
21.6	12.25	Y	67
21.8	12.5	Z	68

All sizing guides suggested by Nolan & Vada are indicative and are elaborated to guide you on your choice.

For any assistance in regards to ring size, please email one of our consultants on design@nolanandvada.com