

# AMBER

AMB  
R



Amber is an organic gem material (a product of living organisms and biological processes) formed millions of years ago, when sap from ancient trees hardened and fossilized.

**Name:** Origin not known but the word “electricity” is derived from the Greek name for amber, electrum. This is because amber can acquire an electric charge when rubbed. Tales described this magical property in about 600 BC - and it remains one of the most useful methods of identifying real amber.

**Appearance:** Most often white through yellow and orange to dark brown.

**General:** Stone Age people found amber along the shores of the Baltic Sea. Worked pieces dated 11.000-9.000 BC are known.

**Processing:** Routinely modified by heating to improve colour and/or clarity.

**Durability:** Prone to scratching due to its low hardness of 2-2½, fractures easily due to brittleness, dissolves upon contact with solvents such as nail varnish remover and is susceptible to damage from ultrasonic cleaning.

**Special care:** Wear amber with care. Keep it away from all solvents and other strong chemicals. Do not expose it to ultrasonic cleaning.

**Sources:** Primarily found in Dominican Republic, Germany, Poland and Russia.

## Lore:

- Amber is perhaps the earliest ornamental gem and has been used for decorative purposes since the Stone Age.
- Highly valued by most ancient cultures, there are several legends that deal with the origins of amber.
- In Norse mythology, it was believed that amber is the tears shed by Freya when Odin wandered out into the world.
- The Chinese believed it was the soul of the tiger transformed into the gem after death.
- According to a Greek myth, amber was created when the Heliades, three sisters, cried tears of sadness after the death of their brother, the god Phaeton. Their tears hardened into amber.
- Throughout history, amber has been used for medical purposes. It has been used to cure such varied diseases as earaches, tonsillitis, depression, malaria, asthma, hysteria, fever, hay fever, poisoning and to cure poor eyesight.



# CULTURED PEARLS

Cultured pearls are pearls grown in molluscs (raised specifically for culturing) by human intervention and care. The pearls used in PANDORA jewellery are freshwater cultured pearls.

We also use Mabe cultured pearls, assembled products consisting of a cultured blister pearl dome cemented to a backing made of mother of pearl shell. The hollow interior is filled with a material such as epoxy resin.

**Name:** The origin of the word pearl is uncertain. It has been suggested, that it could be derived from a combination of the Greek-Latin words “perna” (mollusc) and “sphaerula” (sphere).

**Appearance:** Virtually all colours (often modified by additional colours called overtones) and a pearly luster. Some also display the iridescent phenomenon known as orient.



BP  
black  
cultured pearl



GRP  
pale green  
cultured pearl



PNP/NP  
rose coloured  
cultured pearl



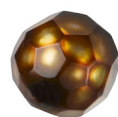
P  
white  
cultured pearl



PB  
brown  
cultured pearl



PCH  
champagne coloured  
cultured pearl



PCO  
brown faceted  
cultured pearl



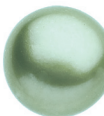
PG  
green freshwater  
cultured pearl



PL  
lime coloured  
cultured pearl



PLA/PLC  
lavender coloured  
cultured pearl



PLG  
light green  
cultured pearl



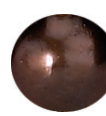
PLP  
pale purple  
cultured pearl



PLW/PW  
watermelon coloured  
cultured pearl



GP  
grey  
cultured pearl



PCL  
chocolate coloured  
cultured pearl

**General:** Pearls are perhaps the best-loved gems of all time. Until the beginning of the twentieth century natural pearls served the market, but due to pollution, over-fishing and economic factors they disappeared from the mainstream jewellery market and their role was taken over by cultured pearls.

**Culturing:** Freshwater cultured pearls are cultivated by gently inserting pieces of tissue into a freshwater mussel. The tissue (from a donor mussel) grows to

form a so-called pearl-sac. In this pearl-sac, mother of pearl (called nacre) is deposited layer upon layer until a cultured pearl is formed. Like natural pearls, tissue nucleated freshwater cultured pearls are nacre all the way through, since they contain no nucleus.

A freshwater mussel can create up to 50 cultured pearls at a time.



RP  
red  
cultured pearl



POL  
olive coloured  
cultured pearl



PP  
pink  
cultured pearl



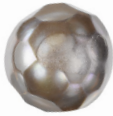
PPC  
peacock coloured  
cultured pearl



PPL  
cherry coloured  
cultured pearl



PRC / RRC  
copper coloured  
cultured pearl



PSG  
grey faceted  
cultured pearl



PSM  
salmon coloured  
cultured pearl



PTL  
turquoise  
cultured pearl



TP  
teal coloured  
cultured pearl



PBL  
blue mabe  
cultured pearl



PGO  
golden mabe  
cultured pearl

**Processing:** Once harvested, freshwater cultured pearls (with colours other than attractive peach, pink and lavender) are routinely bleached to white.

Freshwater- and Mabe cultured pearls, with colours other than white, in PANDORA jewellery owe their colours to dyes.

**Durability:** With a hardness of only 2½ to 4 Mohs and variable toughness influenced by aging, dehydration, and sometimes excessive bleaching during processing, freshwater cultured pearls are prone to scratching and are relatively fragile. They are particularly susceptible to attack by acids, sensitive to solvents, susceptible to damage from ultrasonic cleaning and may have a tendency to dehydrate over time under certain circumstances.

Some pearls that have been dyed may fade or revert to their original colour when exposed to sunlight or strong display lights.

Mabe cultured pearls are particularly fragile due to the thin nature of the cultured blister pearl dome.

**Special care:** Wear cultured pearls with care. Avoid rough handling. Keep them away from acids and all solvents. Cosmetics should be applied before and not after any cultured pearls are put on. Do not expose them to ultrasonic cleaning or high temperatures.

Do not expose dyed freshwater cultured pearls to strong sunlight or display lighting for extended periods of time.

Following wear (particularly if worn against the skin), cultured pearls need to be wiped with a very soft, clean cloth that has been dampened in clean water. It may be beneficial to repeat this at regular intervals if the pearls are not worn for extended periods of time.

**Sources:** China

**Lore:**

- The beauty and desirability of pearls dates back many years and they have a long and fascinating history.
- An old tale says that Cleopatra placed a pearl in a glass of wine, and when it dissolved she drank it to impress Marc Anthony. Pearls were prized by royalty, both male and female, and were even worn by knights who went into battle in the Middle Ages, believing that pearls would protect them from harm.
- Records as old as 215 B.C show that the Chinese dived for seawater pearls, and used them as gifts for royalty, and members of the imperial court, of the Han dynasty.
- The Greeks believed that pearls, brought love and affection, in to the life of a married couple

and considered an oyster, containing a single pearl, as the perfect wedding gift.

- Ancient civilizations were mystified as to where pearls came from which led to a number of legends about pearl origin. In China, it was believed that the pearl formed in the brain of a dragon. Ancient Greeks favoured the idea that pearls were formed by lightning striking the ocean. The spherical shape of some pearls led many cultures to associate this gem with the moon.
- In the Orient, pearls are sometimes associated with the tears of angels, mermaids or mythical nymphs in stories mixing pain and suffering with bliss. A Ceylon legend tells how the tears of Adam and Eve created a lake that gave birth to pearls – white or pink pearls from Eve’s tears, and more precious and rare gray and black pearls from Adam’s tears.
- According to one Polynesian legend, Oro, the Polynesian god of peace and fertility, came down to earth on a rainbow to offer a special type of pearl oyster to man. Another says that Oro offered the pearl from an oyster to the beautiful princess of Bora Bora as a sign of his love.
- One of the most romantic legends tells how the moon bathes the ocean in its light to attract the oysters to the surface so that it may impregnate them with heavenly dew.

- Islamic tradition holds pearls in high regard. The Koran speaks of pearls as one of the great rewards found in Paradise, and the gem itself has become a symbol of perfection.



- Pearls are regarded as very feminine gems and much lore connect them to marriage. Hindu texts say that Krishna discovered the first pearl, which he presented to his daughter on her wedding day.
- The ancient Greeks believed that pearls would promote marital bliss and prevent newlywed women from crying.
- In Europe, pearls symbolized modesty, chastity, and purity. Pearls are also said to bring love, success and happiness. Pearls are also seen as a symbol of innocence and said to keep children safe.

Historic meaning of the various pearl colours:

**White:** Symbol of Purity

**Rose, Pink:** Symbol of Love

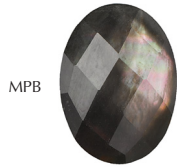
**Golden:** Symbol of Wealth

**Peacock Green:** Symbol of Romance

**Sapphire Blue:** Symbol of Eternity

**Black:** Symbol of Dignity

# MOTHER OF PEARL



MPB

Mother of pearl is the inner lining of the shells of pearl producing molluscs and responsible for the distinctive appearance of most pearls.



MPW

**Name:** From the association with pearls.

**Appearance:** Virtually any colour, often light in tone, with pearly luster and possibly an iridescent effect.



MOP  
MP

**Processing:** Apart from the carved variety, the mother of pearl in PANDORA jewellery has been cut and polished only.

**Durability:** With a hardness of only 3½ Mohs, mother of pearl is prone to scratching. With fair toughness it is reasonably durable, but it is particularly susceptible to attack by acids, sensitive to solvents and susceptible to damage from ultrasonic cleaning.

**Special care:** Wear mother of pearl with care. Avoid rough handling. Keep it away from acids and all solvents and do not subject it to ultrasonic cleaning.

**Sources:** Tropic and sub tropic waters around the world.

## Lore:

- Practitioners of the ancient art of feng shui believe that mother of pearl symbolizes good luck and prosperity.
- Mother of pearl is said to attract wealth to the person wearing it and mother of pearl jewellery is often given as good luck tokens.
- Mother of pearl brings purity and clarity to your life when you are wearing it. Known as a gem that reflects a mother's love, it is said to be a particularly potent stone of protection for children.
- Mother of pearl jewellery is often given as a gift to mothers-to-be or as a gift on Mother's Day.



# TREATED PINK SHELL

PS



Shell is the material of the protective shells of various molluscs. Certain types may be partly mother of pearl if they include material from the inner lining of the shells.

**Appearance:** Pink, occasionally with pearly luster.

**General:** Shells have been used for adornment since the earliest times.

**Processing:** The treated pink shell in PANDORA jewellery has been dyed.

**Durability:** With a hardness of only 3½ Mohs, shell is prone to scratching. With fair toughness it is reasonably durable, but it is particularly susceptible to attack by acids, sensitive to solvents and susceptible to damage from ultrasonic cleaning. Some dyed shell may fade or revert to its original colour when exposed to sunlight, artificial light or strong display lights.

**Special care:** Wear treated pink shell with care. Avoid rough handling. Keep it away from acids and all solvents and do not subject it to ultrasonic cleaning or expose it to strong natural or artificial light for extended periods of time.

**Sources:** Tropic and sub tropic waters around the world.

## Lore:

- Shell has been worn as jewellery since the beginning of time. Shell lore suggests that its many shimmering colors affect all the aspects of the human body, bringing them into balance and alignment. It is also said to help eliminate fear and sorrow.
- In tropical countries, many tribes used shells as money. Throughout history, architects and artists have incorporated shell motifs and symbolism into their work.
- In Greek and Roman mythology shells were the mystic symbol of prosperity and regeneration and, in their association with the sea, the source of fertility.

