



KIMBERLY M_CDONALD

Opal is an amorphous form of silica related to quartz, a mineraloid form, not a mineral. 3% to 21% of the total weight is water, but the content is usually between 6% to 10%. It is deposited at a relatively low temperature and may occur in the fissures of almost any kind of rock, being most commonly found with limonite, sandstone, rhyolite, marl and basalt.

Opal's internal structure makes it diffract light; depending on the conditions in which it formed it can take on many colors. Opal ranges from clear through white, gray, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, magenta, rose, pink, slate, olive, brown, and black. Of these hues, the reds against black are the most rare, whereas white and greens are the most common. It varies in optical density from opaque to semi-transparent. For gemstone use, its natural color is often enhanced by placing thin layers of opal on a darker underlying stone, like basalt.

Most Commonly used Opal in Kimberly McDonald Jewelry:

Precious opal shows a variable interplay of internal colors and even though it is a mineraloid, it does have an internal structure

Fire opals are transparent to translucent opals with warm body colors yellow, orange, orange-yellow or red. They do not usually show any play-of-color, although occasionally a stone will exhibit bright green flashes. The most famous source of fire opals is the state of Querétaro in Mexico and these opals are commonly called Mexican fire opals.

Black Opal is a variety of precious opal with a black or semi-black body colour and spectral colours caused by the break-up of white light. The most famous source, although it is now somewhat depleted, is Lightning Ridge, Australia.















