

Ask the
GEMOLOGIST[®]

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A MIX OF FIRE AND WATER

Opal, October's birthstone, is a curious mix of fire and water. The fire emitted by this lovely gemstone comes from light reflected from spheres of silica arranged in a stone that contains two to six percent water. Lovers of this fiery multi-colored gemstone are advised not to allow opal to become too dry or exposed to heat over too long a period of time. In fact, opal greatly benefits from being close to the skin and being worn often. Doing so will help preserve opal's fabulous play of color. Speaking of which, the stone's color play is often described in terms such as "harlequin," "church windows," "needle fire," "flame," "lightning,"

and "peacock." Opal must be seen to be believed.

Opal has been described as "made up of the glories of the most precious gems...the gentler fire of the ruby, the rich purple of the amethyst, the sea-green of the emerald, glittering together..." If you are looking to increase the treasures in your jewelry collection, we suggest a visit to our jewelry store to see our selection of this stunning work of art. For opal and other gemstone jewelry that will dazzle your eyes and fill you with delight, we're located at 1402 Hancock Street, Quincy Center. You can reach us at 617-773-3636.

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