

# Natural vs lab stones: best everyday jewelry guide



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Looking for stylish, everyday jewelry without overspending? [Purchasing Power](#) has got you covered with a wide variety of gemstone options. With so many choices, it can be hard to narrow down one that matches you. But don't worry! This guide breaks down the key differences between natural stones and lab-created gemstones to help you choose the best option for your budget and style.

## What's the difference between natural and lab-created stones?

Natural stones are mined from the earth and formed over millions of years. While, lab-created stones are made in a controlled, laboratory setting while maintaining the same physical and chemical properties.

The major differences are often revealed under the magnifying glass. Natural stones are often unique from each other due to flaws in their structure. While lab-grown stones tend to be consistently flawless.



## Which is more affordable for everyday jewelry?

Lab-created stones are generally more budget-friendly. For example:

- A 1-carat natural diamond: \$5,000+
- A 1-carat lab-grown diamond: \$1,000–\$2,000

If you're shopping for affordable gemstone jewelry options, lab stones offer more size and sparkle for your money.



## How are lab diamonds made? (HPHT vs. CVD)

When buying online, you may see HPHT or CVD listed in the product details. These are two methods used to grow lab diamonds:

- **HPHT (High Pressure High Temperature):** May have warmer tones, often more affordable for larger stones.
- **CVD (Chemical Vapor Deposition):** Offers better clarity and color consistency.

**Tip for online shoppers:** If you want a bright, clean look, look for CVD diamonds. If you're focused on size and value, HPHT diamonds may be a better fit.



## Are lab-created stones durable enough for daily wear?

Yes. Both natural and lab-created stones are durable and suitable for everyday use.

Stone Type	Hardness (Mohs Scale)	Best For
<u>Diamond</u>	10	Rings, daily wear
<u>Moissanite</u>	9.25	High-sparkle alternatives
<u>Sapphire/Ruby</u>	9	Durable color stones
Emerald	7.5-8	Occasional wear



## Can you tell the difference between lab and natural stones?

To the naked eye, no—they look nearly identical. Natural stones may have inclusions or slight color variations. Lab stones are often more flawless and consistent.

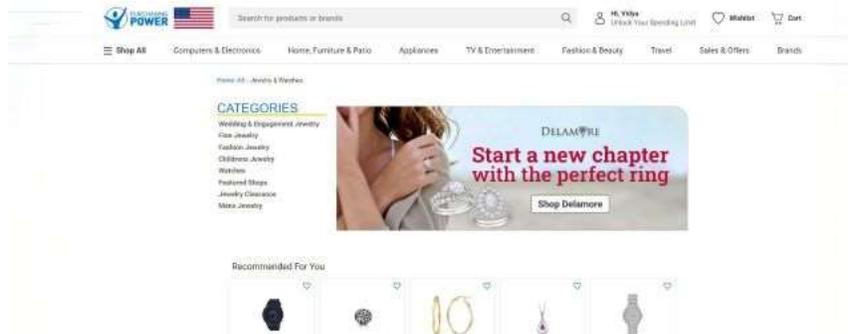
And if you're wondering, "Are lab-created diamonds real?"—yes, they are real diamonds.



## How do I choose the right stone when shopping online?

Ask yourself?

- **What's my budget?** Lab stones offer more value.
- **Do I want size or clarity?** CVD for clarity, HPHT for size.
- **Is this for daily wear?** Choose harder stones like diamonds or sapphires.
- **Do I care about uniqueness?** Natural stones are one-of-a-kind.



## Quick FAQ

### Are lab-created diamonds real?

Yes. They are chemically and physically identical to natural diamonds.

## What's better for everyday jewelry—lab or natural stones?

Both are durable, but lab stones are more affordable and consistent in quality.

## What's the difference between HPHT and CVD diamonds?

HPHT may have warmer tones and lower prices; CVD offers better clarity and color control.

## Can you tell the difference between lab and natural diamonds?

Not without special equipment—visually, they look the same.

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