

SpodumeneSpodumene

Contributed by Administrator
Tuesday, 13 November 2007
Last Updated Tuesday, 13 November 2007

Spodumene

Spodumene is a silicate of lithium and aluminum, with a chemical formula $\text{LiAl}(\text{SiO}_3)_2$. Only two forms are cut as gem stones, the emerald-green and very rare variety hiddenite, and the lilac-and-pink variety known as kunzite. These stones should be handled with great care since they are brittle and if dropped may develop flaws.

Chief sources for kunzite are California, Brazil, and Madagascar. Hiddenite used to be found in North Carolina but sources are now exhausted.

This mineral has a hardness of 6,5-7 and with reasonable care can be used as a ring stone.