



Mohs Scale Of Hardness

The hardness of any material is defined as its resistance to scratching by other materials. Materials of any particular type are usually fairly consistent in hardness regardless of the locale where they were found.

<u>MINERAL</u>	<u>HARDNESS</u>
Diamond	10
Corundum	9
Topaz	8
Feldspar (Orthoclase)	6
Apatite	5
Opal	5.5 to 6.5
Flourite	4
Calcite	3
Gypsum	2
Talc	1

The relative hardness of any mineral, gemstone or rock in their rough state (finished stones would be severely damaged) can be determined by comparative scratch test to determine its position in Mohs scale.

The following is a list of materials that can be used for testing stones for their hardness.

<u>MATERIAL</u>	<u>HARDNESS</u>
Silicon Carbide	9.25
Steel File	6 to 7
Window Glass	5.5
Steel Knife Blade	5.5
Fingernail	2.5