

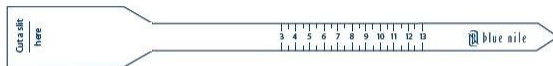
Ten Things to keep in mind when buying opal



1. **Who are you buying it for?** If it's not for yourself, do you have some idea of the persons likes or dislikes. If it is for yourself, you can think about how well the opal matches your favourite outfit, or you can just imagine what it looks like on your ring finger or around your neck.
2. **What size is it?** Sometimes it's difficult to figure out how large or how small an item is because many online sites only have stone weights. Look for a site that has some sort of a comparison so that you can see the relative size of the stone. For example if a site uses a matchstick or a recognizable coin, it helps to see immediately what size the piece is.
3. **Is the Opal a secure stone, or is there a chance that it will crack after a period of time.** It's best to buy from opal dealers who have experience because they know where the stones come from and can offer a guarantee. Many opals that come from places other than Australia are very beautiful but only suitable for specimens, not for jewelry because of the cracking problem.
4. **Is the setting secure?** There are two ways of setting an opal. One is by holding the stone in with claws and the other is with a bezel. That means that the gold or silver is actually rubbed onto the edge of the stone. Both settings can be secure but again, it's wise to double check at the point of sale, asking the supplier to inform you about the security of the stone in the setting. If you opt for claw sets you just have to make sure the claws have no sharp edges that can catch on your blouse or some other material. Reliable opal sites secure the stone with jewelers cement as well as metal. This makes it very secure.
5. **How about the finger size if it's a ring?** If you are buying an opal ring, make sure you tell the supplier the size of your finger so that the ring can be adjusted to fit your finger. This will save you having to do it later, and sites such as Opalmine will give you a discount for the cost of the sizing, as a part of the service to reward you for making the purchase with them.

METHOD A – MEASURE FINGER WITH PAPER SIZER

- Carefully cut along the outline of the sizer. Make a small slit in the left end of the sizer.
- Wrap the sizer around the intended finger with the numbers facing out.
- Slide the pointed end of the sizer through the slit.
- Move the sizer to the largest part of the finger, this may be the knuckle.
- Pull tightly. The sizer must fit snugly to produce an accurate size.**
- The number that lines up at the slit represents the ring size for that finger.



NOTES FOR ACCURATE MEASURING

- Avoid measuring cold fingers as this is when fingers are at their smallest.
- Measure your finger when it is at its largest, at the end of the day.



RING SIZE to MILLIMETER (circumference)

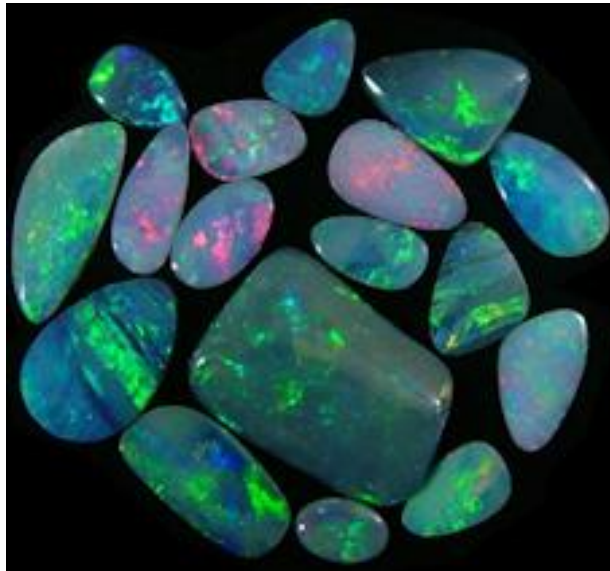
Size 3	44.0 mm	Size 8.5	58.4 mm
Size 3.5	45.2 mm	Size 9	59.7 mm
Size 4	46.5 mm	Size 9.5	60.9 mm
Size 4.5	47.8 mm	Size 10	62.2 mm
Size 5	49.0 mm	Size 10.5	63.5 mm
Size 5.5	50.3 mm	Size 11	64.7 mm
Size 6	51.7 mm	Size 11.5	66.0 mm
Size 6.5	53.1 mm	Size 12	67.2 mm
Size 7	54.3 mm	Size 12.5	68.5 mm
Size 7.5	55.6 mm	Size 13	69.7 mm
Size 8	57.2 mm	Size 13.5	71.0 mm

- What size opal do you want?** If you are buying a pendant, decide what size you would like it to be. You might have to hold some costume jewelry up to your neck, or even a piece of cardboard cut to size so that you can decide the size that looks best. You can then check out what is available and if necessary order an unset stone that will suit your needs.
- What about the chain?** Again, if you are buying an opal Pendant, you have to decide on the right chain to wear with it. If it's a small pendant, you will need a lighter chain than you would need if it's a large one. Ask the supplier whether or not there is a chain supplied with the pendant. Opalmine supplies quality silver chains with silver pendants but the gold ones are extra.
- Do you want gift packaging?** If you are buying a gift for someone, check to see if the opal merchant will supply you with good quality gift packaging because, as you probably realize, sometimes the way things are presented is just as important as the item itself, because it gives a strong hint to the receiver that you really care for them. Enough to be sure it looks good.



- Color of the metal?** You have to decide on the color of the metal. Keep in mind that gold comes in white as well as yellow, so you have a color choice. Bear in mind though that gold is now very expensive so if you are going to make a choice of that metal, the price will usually be upwards of \$500 up to \$1000 and for higher grade stones and heavier gold, as much as \$2000 and more. Whereas silver, even though still a precious metal, is much less than this. Starting for example for around \$100 including a quality opal. Opalmine has full sets of pendants and matching earrings for under \$100, including chain and gift boxing.
- What stone shape would you like?** Finally, consider the shape of the stone. As you probably know, Opals are usually cut as cabochons (dome topped stones) rather than

faceted, and they are also usually cut in an oval shape. While this shape is really beautiful, keep in mind that opal is cut in just about every shape you can think of. Opalmine features a large selection of opal stones which have no set shape at all. They are called 'freeform' opals. That means that the shape is unique, and to some people this offers an alternative that adds even more to the originality of the stone. There are many more things that could be said about this amazing stone but this will give you plenty to think about when making your choice.



Mixed parcel of oval and free form doublet opal

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