

Crystal Solace

The Crystal Buying Guide

How to choose natural crystals, spot fakes, and avoid overpaying

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Chapter 1 — Start with the stone

Before worrying about brands or "energy", learn to judge the stone itself. Four things matter, in this order.

Color saturation

A good crystal shows an even, rich color. Amethyst should be a deep purple with no dull gray patches; rose quartz should be a warm pink, not milky. Very pale stones are usually lower grade or heat-treated.

Clarity

Natural crystals almost always contain tiny inclusions — that is a sign of authenticity, not a flaw. What you want to avoid is heavy cloudiness or milky zones. For jewelry, look for eye-clean stones; for raw crystal points, visible inclusions are normal and even desirable.

Hardness

Most popular crystals sit at 6-7 on the Mohs scale (amethyst and quartz are 7), which is hard enough for everyday wear. Softer stones like selenite and calcite scratch easily and are better kept as display pieces, not daily jewelry.

Cut and finish

Well-polished beads are smooth to the touch with no chipped drill holes. On a bracelet, uneven beads or rough edges are a sign of mass production shortcuts — walk away.

Chapter 2 — Spot the fakes in five minutes

Glass and dyed plastic flood the market. You do not need a lab to catch most fakes — these five tests work at home.

1. Temperature

Stone feels cool to the touch and warms slowly in your hand. Glass and plastic warm up almost immediately.

2. Clarity

Look for natural flaws. A "perfect" crystal with zero inclusions and uniform bubble-free clarity is a red flag — glass looks too clean.

3. Hardness

A genuine quartz crystal will scratch glass (its hardness is 7). A glass imitation will not.

4. Weight

Real stones are noticeably heavier than plastic or resin of the same size. Compare in your hand with a known piece if you have one.

5. Price

If a "natural amethyst bracelet" costs less than a sandwich, it is not natural amethyst. Dye jobs and glass are how that price becomes possible.

Chapter 3 — Know what you pay for

Here is the uncomfortable truth: most popular crystals are not rare. Amethyst, clear quartz, rose quartz and tiger eye are mined in industrial quantities. A fair price for a well-made bracelet of these stones is \$20-60 — not \$200.

What drives the price up

- Stone quality — color saturation and clarity, in that order.
- Size and cut — a hand-polished 10 mm strand costs far more than mass-produced 6 mm.
- Handwork — real finishing takes time and shows.
- Brand — last on the list, and the least real value.

The three price traps

- The "healing" markup: the same bracelet costs 3x when a shop adds a spiritual story.
- Dye jobs: cheap stones dyed to imitate amethyst or rose quartz.
- Stock photos: "handmade" listings using borrowed photos are a red flag at any price.

Chapter 4 — Care, cleansing and wearing

Daily habits

- Take jewelry off before showers, pools, workouts and bed.
- Keep it away from perfume spray — it dulls metal faster than years of wear.
- Wipe with a soft dry cloth after wearing.

Cleansing (energy-wise and physical)

If you follow cleansing rituals, the gentle methods work best: a rinse in lukewarm water, or a night resting in indirect moonlight. Avoid sunlight for pale stones — rose quartz and moonstone can fade. Never use harsh chemicals, and skip ultrasonic cleaners with pale or fractured stones.

Sizing reminders

Bracelets: measure around the wrist bone and add 10-15 mm. Most adults measure 15-18 cm; a 17 cm elastic bracelet fits roughly two-thirds of women. Pendants: stay under 12 grams total for daily wear, and choose 925 silver or stainless steel if you have sensitive skin.

Chapter 5 — The honest price ranges

Crystal	Bracelet (6-8 mm)	What to check
Clear quartz / black obsidian	\$10-25	Even color, smooth finish
Amethyst / rose quartz / tiger eye	\$20-60	Deep color, no milky zones
Jade	\$20-60	Translucency, weight
Blue lace agate / lapis	\$40-90	Natural banding, real stone
Red garnet	\$40-90	Rich color, no dye smell
"Smoky quartz" that is opaque	Avoid	Likely heat-treated
"Citrine" that is bright orange	Avoid	Very likely dyed amethyst

A practical rule: buy the stone for its own sake. Ask the seller for real photos shot in daylight, check the return policy, and when in doubt, run the five tests before you pay.

About Crystal Solace

Crystal Solace is a small brand founded in 2014, making handcrafted jewelry from natural amethyst, rose quartz, clear quartz, tiger eye and garnet. Every piece ships with a quality certificate, and we offer a 30-day no-questions return.

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