



## Agate



No gemstone is more creatively, randomly patterned, and coloured than Agate. This is chalcedony quartz that forms in concentric layers in a huge range of colours and textures. Each individual agate forms by the filling a cavity in host rock. As a result, agate is often found as a round nodule, with concentric bands like the rings of a tree trunk.

Technically, Agate is a microcrystalline variety of quartz (silica), characterised by its fineness of grain and brilliance of color. Although agates may be found in various kinds of rock, they are typically associated with volcanic or metamorphic rocks. Composed of silicon dioxide ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ), it has a hardness of 7.

The stone was given its name by Theophrastus, a Greek philosopher and naturalist, who discovered the stone along the shore line of the river Achates sometime between the 4th and 3rd centuries BC.

In ancient times Agate was highly valued as a talisman or amulet. It was said to quench thirst and protect against fever. Agate is believed by some to have magical powers and Persian magicians used the gem to divert storms. The ancient Greek king Mithridates of Pontus in northern Anatolia (Turkey) from 120 to 63 BC was reputed to have a collection of over two thousand agate bowls and is remembered as one of Rome's most formidable and successful enemies. Agate bowls became common among European royalty during the Renaissance and many museums in Europe, including the Louvre, have spectacular examples.

Agate is believed by many to be a stone of strength. It was used by the Ancients on the breastplates of armor to give warriors strength and make them victorious in battle. Agate enhances creativity and strengthens the intellect, making it a beneficial stone for both students and artists. It is also known as a good luck stone. As a stone of harmony, balances yin/yang energy. Because it is a grounding stone, it does not increase energy at all times, but rather enables bursts of energy as needed. In this way, agate is a conservation stone, and enhances longevity. Physically, agate is particularly helpful with tooth and gum issues, stomach problems, physical endurance, insomnia.

Chakras: All agates can remove blockages from any chakra. Agate also relates to specific chakras according to the stone color.

