

## REPORT

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### **GEMOLOGY**

Gemstones are leaping out of jewellery boxes to find a purposeful place in your favourite skincare product.

While it seems unfathomable that jewels can offer more benefits than dressing the décolletage, digging into your gem box for a rejuvenated face is not a new concept.

In ancient times, malachite mixed with water, gum and fat was used by the Egyptians to make eyeliner. Europeans consumed amber elixirs as a revitalising tonic, and in Korea, scientists discovered that tourmaline generates an energy of negative ions that assists in the absorption of topical ingredients.

Both precious and semi-precious stones have been compared to “lightning rods” that create a protective field around the body. Over time, they can promote positive changes to both the mental and physical appearance. For those looking for precious pampering and an immediate lift to the skin, and mood, try the Gemstone Facial (\$188 for 80 minutes) at Lazio Medispa (6733-9128). It uses 20 kinds of gems from jade to onyx.

Today’s top skincare brands also give us the opportunity to indulge our cravings for bling with gemstone-infused product lines. You will find diamond crystals that help reflect light to immediately illuminate the skin in La Prairie’s Skin Caviar Crystalline Concentrate, while pure diamond powder in La Mer’s The Body Refiner acts as an agent to provide gentle exfoliation. L’Oreal Paris taps the benefits of Brazilian tourmaline in its White Perfect Night Cream, which has electro-magnetic properties to improve blood circulation.

At Bulgari, not one, but four gems – citrine, malachite, blue sapphire and red tourmaline – are combined to create Bulgari Gem Essence. The formula blends micronised powders and liquid extracts from the stones and can be found in all its products, including the latest Source Defense Emulsion. Rich in trace minerals and antioxidant power, the pulverised gems help to nourish, protect and enhance, while a complex of thioneine and hydra filaggrin ensures intense hydration and protection against free radicals.