

TOP 8 BLACK NATURAL STONES FOR YOUR JEWELRY

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GUIDE

TOP 8 DES PIERRES
NATURELLES NOIRES



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Perles & Co

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Black is a timeless color in creative jewelry making. It provides structure, creates contrast, and highlights all other hues. Whether you're just starting out in DIY jewelry making or are an experienced designer, discover our selection of the 8 must-have black natural gemstones to add character to your most beautiful pieces. *Important note: Our gemstones are intended exclusively for the creation of jewelry and accessories. They are not sold for use in crystal healing. Natural stones are in no way a substitute for medical expertise or medical treatment.*

Which natural stones are black?

The main black natural stones used in creative jewelry making are onyx, obsidian (black or speckled), black agate, black spinel, shungite, dyed howlite, Dalmatian jasper, and black rutilated quartz. Each is distinguished by its texture, luster, and ease of working with.

Onyx

Onyx is undoubtedly the most commonly used black stone in creative jewelry making. This variety of chalcedony is distinguished by its uniform, deep black color, sometimes interspersed with fine, natural white streaks. When polished, it has a glossy, elegant finish, while its frosted, "frosted-effect" version offers a more matte, contemporary texture.

Why choose it?

- A dense, even black that's easy to pair with other materials.
- Available in a wide variety of shapes: round beads, cabochons, pendants, and charms.



Black Obsidian

Obsidian is a glassy volcanic rock formed by the rapid cooling of lava. Its smooth, shiny, almost mirror-like surface makes it a very photogenic stone. It is also found in a speckled variety, with small gray inclusions that break up the uniformity of the black.

Designer Tips:

- Irregular nugget-shaped beads strung on elastic thread for a raw, natural look.
- A black-and-gray mix with speckled obsidian for added texture.

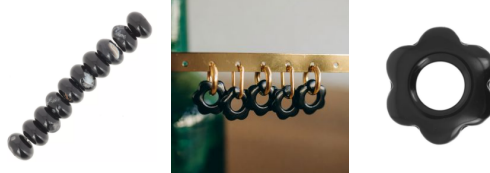


Black Agate

Black agate also belongs to the large chalcedony family. Its texture is softer and more subtle than that of onyx, sometimes featuring subtle shades of gray that give it depth. It can be found in beads, cabochons, and pendants, or even in the form of flowers or heishi beads.

Key features:

- A more nuanced black hue than onyx, for a natural look.
- Works very well as heishi beads for layered necklaces.
- Pairs easily with other colored agates in the collection.



Black Spinel

Rarer and more understated, black spinel captivates with its subtle luster and small size, often available as faceted beads or flattened Rondelle beads. This gemstone is perfect for designs that prioritize delicacy over bulk.

Designer Tips:

- Ideal for layering on a delicate bracelet.
- Perfect for adding a touch of black without overwhelming a piece of jewelry.
- Pairs beautifully with gold or pearlescent beads.



Lava Stone

Lava stone is a porous volcanic rock formed by the rapid cooling of magma. Its black or dark gray color and matte, almost raw texture make it a staple for minimalist, unisex designs. Unlike onyx or obsidian, it has no glossy sheen: it's precisely this muted, mineral-like appearance that appeals to both men and women.

Why choose it?

- A matte, textured black—very different from the polished gemstones currently in vogue.
 - Highly prized for men's jewelry, particularly in round beads.
 - It pairs easily with stainless steel, 925 Sterling Silver, or gold-plated metal for a chic contrast.
- To learn more, your article ["Lava Stone: Meaning, Origins, and Benefits"](#) is already online and can be accessed here.



Shungite

Shungite is distinguished by its matte black color, sometimes accented with subtle metallic sheens. Composed mainly of carbon, it comes primarily from Russia. Its rough texture gives it a very different look from onyx or obsidian—more "raw" and mineral-like.

Why choose it?

- A unique matte black finish that offers a refreshing change from polished stones.
- Available in cabochons of various diameters.
- Pairs well with 925 Sterling Silver for a sleek look.

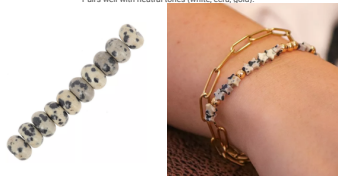
To learn more about this stone, you can also check out our page dedicated to the [meaning and properties of shungite](#).

Dalmatian Jasper

Dalmatian Jasper gets its name from its distinctive pattern: a light background speckled with black spots, resembling the coat of the dog of the same name. It's an ideal stone for adding a more graphic and original touch of black to your creations.

Key Features:

- A unique pattern, different on every bead.
- Perfect for fun and quirky designs.
- Pairs well with neutral tones (white, ecru, gold).



Black Rutilated Quartz

To round out this list, Black Rutilated Quartz is a lesser-known variant of classic rutilated quartz (which is usually gold or copper-colored). Here, fine, dark rutile needles run through the stone, giving it that distinctive "angel hair" effect against a translucent to black background. It's a stone in a class of its own, straddling the line between transparency and opacity, which adds depth to a range of more classic blacks.

Why try it?

- A unique, thread-like effect, very different from other black stones.
- Ideal as a centerpiece for a piece of jewelry that stands out from the crowd.
- Pairs well with rock crystal or other transparent quartz varieties.

Which stones pair well with black stones?

Black stones harmonize with almost any color, but certain combinations work particularly well:

- Gold or Rose Gold for a chic and luminous contrast.
- 925 Sterling Silver or stainless steel, for a sleek and timeless look.
- Our [natural blue stones](#) for a deep and mysterious effect.
- Our [natural pink stones](#) for a soft, feminine touch.
- Our [natural green stones](#) for a natural, botanical contrast.

Result

