

LAPIS LAZULI !
Gado Gado International, Santa Rosa, California
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What is lapis lazuli?

Lapis Lazuli is a semi-precious stone composed of at least 14 different minerals, including lazurite, which gives its characteristic blue color; wollastonite and calcite, which are responsible for the streaks of grey and white; and pyrite, which gives it its golden highlights. There are only two countries in the world with significant lapis lazuli deposits--Afghanistan and Chile.

History and Meaning

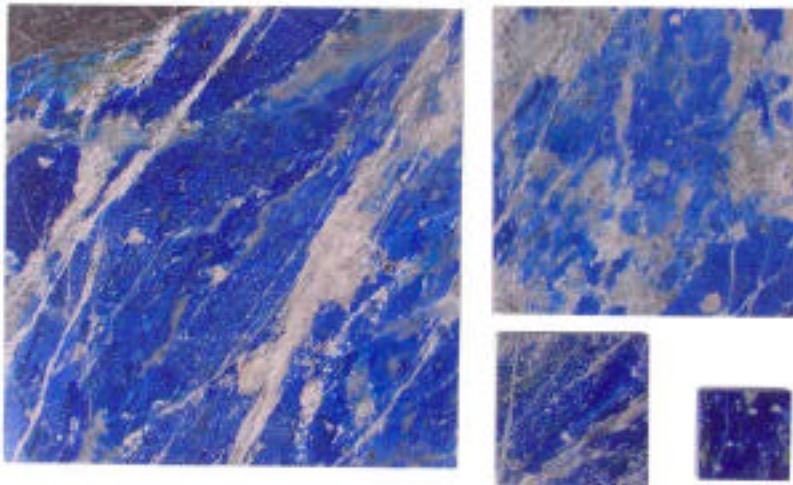
For over 5000 years and many civilizations, the intense and exclusive blue color of lapis lazuli has been a symbol for purity, health, elegance, nobility and luck. The Sumerians and Babylonians reserved lapis lazuli mined in Afghanistan for their most valuable jewels. The Greeks attributed healing properties to lapis. Egyptian Pharaohs used it to adorn their thrones and golden crowns, and Cleopatra used lapis lazuli dust as the first eye make-up. During the European Renaissance, several renowned painters including Leonardo da Vinci and Fra Angelico used lapis lazuli powder as a fade-resistant blue pigment. Per kilogram, this lapis lazuli powder was worth more than gold...

In the Americas, for over 2000 years various pre-Columbian cultures have used lapis lazuli to ornament jewelry and artifacts, extracting the stone from a deposit located at 12,000 feet elevation located in the Andes mountain range of Chile.

Gado Gado International imports and distributes lapis lazuli blocks, tile, drawer pulls and knobs, jewelry, and interior design accessories from Afghanistan and Chile. Below are some examples of our lapis products.

LAPIS LAZULI TILES

Lapis lazuli tiles are cut from natural stone and then polished. Lapis tiles come in a variety of sizes and qualities—in fact it is sold by “percent blue”, which ranges from 30% to 95%. The tiles pictured here are 1”x1”, 2”x2”, 4”x4”, and 6”x6”, with a standard thickness of 3/8” (0.4”). We can cut tiles to other sizes for large orders. “Gem tile” has beveled edges, resembling a fine lapis lazuli pendant.



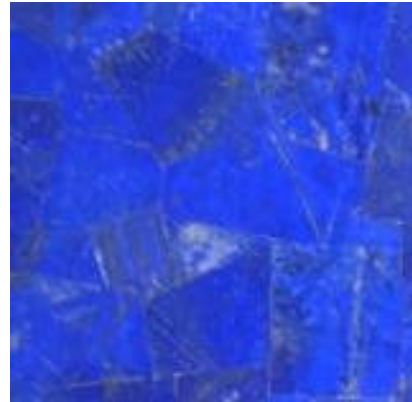
MOSAIC-TYPE LAPIS LAZULI TILES

Mosaic-type tiles are made from natural lapis lazuli stone cut into small tiles in sizes 2"x2", 2"x4", and 2"x6" for 40-50% blue Chilean lapis and in random geometric shapes for 60-95% blue Afghani lapis. The cut pieces are adhered to marble or adjoined using a resin or fiberglass base. Mosaic tiles can be used for countertops, shower walls & floors, and wall coverings.

Chilean mosaic tile

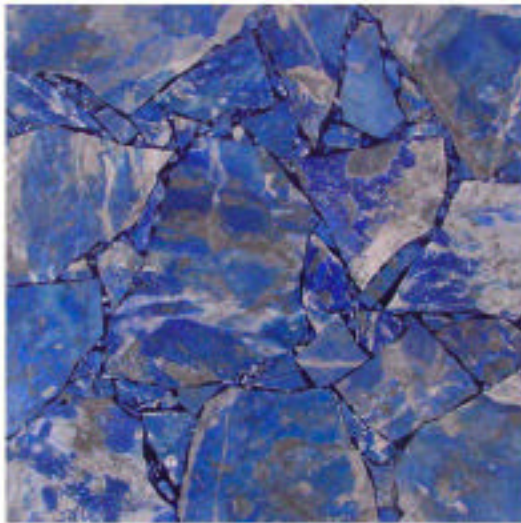


Afghani mosaic tile



SLAB-COMPOSITE LAPIS LAZULI TILES

Slab-type tiles are made from natural lapis lazuli stone that is cut into small irregularly shaped pieces that are held together using a resin that can be transparent or tinted using an ultramarine blue pigment. The resulting mosaic is then adhered to an agglomerate base for floor coverings or to a fiberglass base for wall coverings.



COMPOUND-TYPE LAPIS LAZULI TILES AND SLABS

Composite-type tiles and slabs are made from natural lapis lazuli stone in the form of chips of different grain-sizes. These chips are adhered together using a resin, and the surface is finely polished.



MOLDINGS

A variety of lapis lazuli moldings are available, including alfa, round, and quarter-round. Molding sizes range from 2" to 4" long, in several widths. We can fabricate other sizes and shapes for large orders.



KNOBS

Lapis drawer knobs come in five basic shapes: round (1-1/4" and 1-1/2" diameter); oval (1-1/2" & 1-3/4" on long axis), hexagonal (1-3/8"), triangular (1.5") and square (1-3/8"). High quality brass inserts and screws are provided.



**For Prices and Ordering – Contact Gado Gado International,
phone: 707-525-8244; email: info@gadogadointl.com; website:
[www.gadogadointl.com \(http://gadogadointl.com/gallery_view.asp?cat=9&type=5\)](http://gadogadointl.com/gallery_view.asp?cat=9&type=5)**