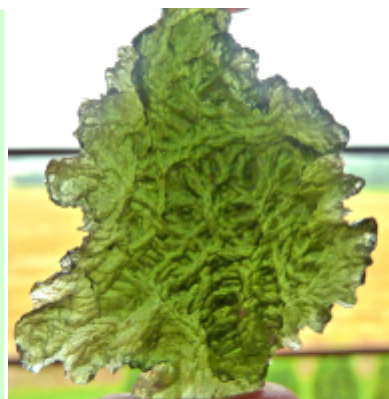




# De Barnsteen Specialist

## How did moldavite originate?

About 14 million years ago, the earth was hit by an asteroid. The impact of this enormous meteorite created the Nördlinger Ries crater. In this collision, the meteorite was smashed to pieces and fragmented. Parts of the meteorite and terrestrial rock were blown into the atmosphere and landed hundreds of kilometres further in the Czech Republic. Moldavite is natural glass created in the upper layers of the atmosphere by the fusion of the meteorite and terrestrial rock.



## Where is moldavite found?

The largest deposits of Moldavite are found in the upper basin of the Moldau between Prachatice and Trhový Sviny and south and west of České Budějovice in the Czech Republic. Moldavites have also been found in Moravia, the stones from this region are sometimes called Moravites and have a more brown color. These moldavites are less popular than the green Bohemian ones. Even in Austria a small amount of moldavite has been discovered, but also these are browner in color and less in quality. The Czech moldavite locations are indicated in

## How much Moldavite is there?

The exact amount of Moldavite is very difficult to estimate. Looking at the size of the meteorite and the fields where moldavite is found, it is estimated that about 20 million moldavites were created with a total weight between 275 and 300 tons. However, the elements, landslides and other geological activities have resulted in a drastic reduction, and destroyed most of the moldavite. Therefore, there is little to say about the amount of moldavite that remains of the original quantity today.



## Availability of moldavite in the future

Due to the increased popularity and the limited number of locations where moldavite can be found the availability of moldavites decreases rapidly. It is estimated that commercial mining of this extraterrestrial gem can continue for up to a decade before it is exhausted. It is therefore expected that prices will continue to rise in the coming years.

Want to know more about moldavite? Click on a link below

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