



Copal



Copal is a younger version of Amber. While copal is more readily available and less valuable than true Amber, it is often sold as Amber. A simple way to test the difference between Amber and Copal is that Copal will become sticky when rubbed with acetone, while Amber will not. Copal would convert to Amber over millions of years.

This Copal comes from the Colombian forest region of Santander. It is produced by the resin of the *Hymenea Coubaril* tree. The age is estimated between 10,000 and 250,000 years old

Many varieties of insects are often found in Copal including bees, spiders, ants, cockroaches, flies, beetles and termites, either with or without wings. Often, the burrowing tracks can be seen also. In older Copal, extinct insects provide scientists with evidence of prehistoric presence as seen in the movie *Jurassic Park*.



Copal is still used by a number of indigenous peoples of Mexico and Central America as incense during ceremonies.

Inclusions in Copal can make spectacular jewellery.