

NICKEL FUN FACTS

Nickel, element 28 on the periodic table, is a mineral that is very ductile, alloys readily, resists corrosion and oxidation, has a high melting point, and also has catalytic properties. It's most common use is when it is alloyed with other metals, particularly with chromium, to produce stainless and heat-resistant steels. It's most common applications can be found in: vehicles, stainless steel (kitchen and hospital equipment) and in aircraft engines.

- Nickel is sometimes referred to as the 'hidden' metal but is found in most everyday products. Nickel-containing products include: bathroom handles and knobs, electric shavers, kitchen appliances, sinks, pots and pans, coins, jewelry, batteries, and cars, to name just a few.
- Approximately 65 percent of nickel is used to make stainless steel products.
- Stainless steel is a hygienic and durable alloy of nickel and is often used in food processing industries because foods can be highly acidic and capable of breaking down a wide range of materials, including many metals.



- Nickel is an important material in airplane engines because of its ability to withstand high temperatures.
- The U.S. nickel coin contains 25 percent nickel and 75 percent copper by weight.
- Nickel is the fifth most common element in the Earth but the majority of nickel is located in the core which is more than 1,800 miles below the surface of the Earth's crust.
- Currently, the United States does not produce any nickel, relying on imports for 100 percent of its nickel demand.
- Minnesota is well positioned to help the U.S. meet its nickel demand – it is estimated that 99 percent of the country's supply of nickel is located in the state.

Sources:

Nickel Institute, www.nickelinstitute.org
U.S. Geological Survey, <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2012/3024/pdf/fs2012-3024.pdf>