

## COPPER 101

“Copper” comes from the Latin word cuprum, which means “from the island of Cyprus.” The element’s symbol for copper is Cu and its atomic number is 29. One of the oldest metals known to civilization, copper continues to make significant contributions to today’s society, including through:

**HEALTHCARE:** Hospital acquired infections are a problem worldwide, but copper’s antimicrobial properties can be used to reduce the presence of bacteria on frequently-touched surfaces, including sinks, door knobs and even computer keyboards. Copper is also used in ulcer and wound-healing medicines as well as cancer research.

**BUILDING MATERIALS:** Copper is resistant to corrosion and oxidation and can maintain its integrity for years, making it an ideal durable material for roofing, wall cladding, gutters, electrical wiring and plumbing. It can also be used for other products, including bathroom, lighting and ornamental fixtures.



**GREEN ENERGY:** Copper plays an important role in the green energy sector and is essential to build the energy systems of the future. In the wind industry, copper is in the coil windings in portions of the generator, in the high-voltage power cable conductors and in the transformer coils. It is also vital to the electrical grounding system for wind farms.

**HUMAN HEALTH:** Copper is an essential part of the human diet. Copper enhances bone strength, red and white blood cell maturation, iron transport, heart muscle contraction and brain development. Foods rich in copper include dried beans, almonds, broccoli, garlic, soybeans, peas, whole wheat products, seafood and even chocolate.

Source: Copper Development Association

