

## NICKEL 101

A silvery-white and lustrous metal, nickel is the fifth most common element on earth and has the symbol Ni. Nickel is extremely versatile and is used in more than 300,000 products across a wide variety of industries and materials, including:

**STAINLESS STEEL:** Two-thirds of all mined nickel is used to make stainless steel. The alloy's smooth non-porous surface along with its high resistance to corrosion and heat makes the metal easy to clean and very hygienic. Stainless steel is found frequently in kitchens from pots and pans and cutlery to food processing equipment. It is also used to make many surgical tools and medical devices because the metal can be frequently sterilized without wearing down.



**CONSTRUCTION:** Nickel's high resistance to corrosion and oxidation along with its natural shine keep structures looking new for a long time – one example of this use is the Chrysler Building in New York City.



**TRANSPORTATION:** Nickel is important to transportation because of the ability to withstand extreme temperatures, its light weight and durability. It is found in hybrid car batteries, jet engines, and is used to make subway cars and passenger carriages.

**ELECTRONICS:** Nickel allows for a constant flow of electricity through electronics and is a critical component in some devices as it maintains a safe voltage. A few of the electronics where it can be found include: rechargeable batteries, cell phones and computer hard disks.

Source: *The Nickel Institute*