

FAVORITE SUMMER PASTIMES RELY ON STRATEGIC MINERALS

Summer has finally arrived in Minnesota! For most Minnesotans, summer means enjoying the outdoors with friends and family including: road trips, grilling, boating, fishing and sometimes even escaping the heat with air conditioning. Did you know that all of these activities need strategic metals?



VEHICLES: Spending time at the lake, cabin or going on a Midwest road trip is how many families vacation during the summer months. Copper is a vital component in our vehicles – a standard car contains 42 pounds of copper while a hybrid car requires 75 pounds of copper.

GRILLS: Stainless steel, which contains nickel as an important component, is used in outdoor grills in the main body, burners, cooking grates, and many other parts. Some gas grills use copper tubing to connect directly to a house's fuel line, eliminating the need for propane tanks.

BOATS: As the home to more than 11,000 lakes, many Minnesotans spend much of their summer fishing or recreational boating. Like cars, boats

also require copper and stainless steel. Copper is used in the fuel lines and electrical wiring, while stainless steel is used for the propellers and headliners of leisure boats. Copper and nickel alloys are also ideal materials for salt-water boat hulls due to their corrosion resistance.

AIR CONDITIONERS: Air conditioning provides a welcome respite from summer's extreme heat and humidity. There are many different types of air conditioners, but they all use stainless steel and copper tubing for their corrosion-resistant properties. Copper materials are also important to making new units more energy efficient.

Sources:

The More You Dig, <http://www.themoreyoudig.com/2014/05/22/summertime/>

Copper Development Association, <http://www.copper.org/applications/marine/cuni/>