HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The holiday season is for spending time with family and friends, being thankful, giving back and celebrating. No matter how you plan to celebrate this season, strategic metals are likely an important part of your holiday activities. Let's take a look at where copper, nickel and platinum group metals will be present.

DECORATIONS: One of the most popular seasonal decorations is holiday lights. Each light bulb contains both copper and nickel while the wiring of the light string is made of copper. Minerals are also necessary to create colors in lights — a violet light is created using nickel oxide.

TRAVEL: Many people travel to spend time with family during the holidays. Whether you travel via car, train or airplane, strategic metals are necessary components in transportation. Automobiles require copper. In fact, a standard car contains 42 pounds of copper while a hybrid car contains 75 pounds of copper. Stainless steel, which contains nickel alloys, is used for passenger, metro and light rail systems in everything from the entire rail car superstructure, safety systems and passenger amenities. Finally, nickel is an important material in airplane engines because of its ability to withstand high temperatures.

GIFTS: Jewelry and electronics are often popular gift items for the holidays. Platinum is a popular metal to use in rings because of its strength and durability while palladium is often used for larger jewelry. Electronics such as cell phones, computers and tablets all contain copper components and wiring while nickel is critical in maintaining a constant flow of electricity as well as maintaining a safe voltage.

The Twin Metals Minnesota team wishes you happy holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Sources:
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