

MINERALS IN HEALTHCARE



According to the American Hospital Association (AHA), there were more than 35 million admissions to registered hospitals in the United States in 2013. That's nearly 100,000 admissions a day! The same AHA study revealed approximately 5,680 hospitals were responsible for all of those admittances. That's quite a few people to squeeze into only a couple of buildings. With so many patients and limited hospital space, the need for efficiencies and safe practices in every medical institution is crucial. Thanks to – you guessed it! – minerals, hospitals are continuing to improve the care of patients through safe and healthy practices.

Have you seen copper handles or bedrails in your local hospital? Many medical facilities use antimicrobial copper due to its bacteria-killing ability that makes hospital environments more hygienic. Registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the only solid metal touch surface material able to continuously kill more than 99 percent of bacteria within two hours of contact, antimicrobial copper helps prevent the transmission of hospital acquired infections.

Nickel-containing stainless steel medical equipment is a common sight in hospitals due to its wear-resistant properties. Because stainless steel is easy to clean and sterilize, it can be found in hypodermic needles, surgical implants and pharmaceutical production processes.

Sources:

<http://www.aha.org/research/rc/stat-studies/fast-facts.shtml>

<http://antimicrobialcopper.com/us/why-antimicrobial-copper/introduction-to-antimicrobial-copper.aspx>

<http://thinkcopper.org/healthcare/hospitals-install-antimicrobial-copper-to-improve-patient-safety/>