

Nickel (Ni)

What is Nickel?

Nickel is a naturally occurring element. Pure nickel is a hard, silvery-white metal used to make stainless steel and other metal alloys. Nickel is found in all soil and is emitted from volcanoes. Nickel is also found in meteorites and on the ocean floor.

Does Nickel have any additional names?

No.

What are the known health effects?

The most common harmful effect of nickel in humans is an allergic reaction. Approximately 10-20% of the population is sensitive to nickel. Once a person is sensitized to nickel, further contact with the metal may produce a reaction. Some sensitized people react when they consume food or water containing nickel or breathe dust containing it.

How does exposure occur?

You may be exposed to nickel by eating food containing nickel, which is the most common source of exposure. You may also be exposed to nickel through soil, bath, shower water or metals containing nickel. There is also a small potential for exposure by drinking water that contain nickel.

Is this contaminant regulated?

Not at this time. In the past, USEPA established a limit of 100 ppb for nickel in drinking water; however that limit was rescinded in 1995. We are still required to sample and report results. The maximum level of nickel detected in water supplied to customers of Mount Laurel MUA is 15.1 ppb.

How can I reduce exposure?

Activated carbon filtration and reverse osmosis are two ways to remove nickel from drinking water.

Additional information regarding nickel, including the information referenced, can be found at:

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts15.pdf>

<https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/pdf/archived-technical-fact-sheet-on-nickel.pdf>