

1 Tips on nickel

2 Nickel is a metal that naturally occurs in the Earth's crust. It is used for many products including
3 jewelry and stainless steel, and it can contaminate dust in nickel refineries and processing plants.

4 Workers who are exposed to nickel can develop chronic bronchitis and cancers of the nasal sinus
5 and lung. Skin contact with nickel can cause allergic dermatitis.

6 Allergic dermatitis caused by nickel is a clinical diagnosis. If occupational nickel exposure is
7 suspected, obtain a 24-hour urine nickel level.

8 Treatment is primarily supportive, and ongoing exposure should be avoided or reduced when
9 possible.

10 Encourage patients to wear nickel-free jewelry if they are allergic. Advise patients that employers
11 are responsible for informing them of their workplace hazards, providing proper PPE (personal
12 protective equipment), and ensuring that workspaces are well-ventilated. Counsel patients who
13 work with nickel to use proper PPE, keep their work areas clean, and shower and change their
14 clothes and shoes before returning home.

15 Visit ATSDR's website to learn more.