

THE MAGIC OF COPPER

We were told early on that the SARS Covid19 virus endures for days on plastic, glass, metal or even cardboard. People would disinfect their Amazon boxes before bringing them into the house. We were afraid to touch doorknobs or toilets for fear of contracting the virus. Much of this was unknown in the beginning. One thing that I've found really interesting was that the virus would disintegrate on contact with copper surfaces. Here's why.

Dr. Bill Keevil, a microbiology researcher at the University of Southampton (U.K.) has studied the microbial effect of copper for more than two decades. He noted in his laboratory that viruses were killed upon contact when exposed to copper. He first noticed it with Legionnaire's Disease and then MRSA, MERS, Swine Flu and a host of



others. He found that copper zapped the viruses within minutes while it remained infectious for five days on surfaces such as stainless steel or glass. He noted that people use stainless steel believing it to be a "clean" surface, but copper disinfects just by being there. You might wonder why copper isn't used more as a disinfectant surface.

It has been known going back to 1,600 B.C., the Chinese used copper coins as medication to treat heart and stomach pain as well as bladder diseases. The sea-faring Phoenicians inserted shavings from their bronze swords into battle wounds to prevent infection. Plus, copper is one of the most enduring metals. It was found that the old copper railings at New York's Grand Central Station looks like it did the day they installed it over 100 years ago. All of this said, why is copper not used more in settings to prevent infections, like in hospitals and public transit systems. It has been studied and found that hospitals that utilize copper in hospital bedding and tables can reduce infections by 78%. It is a more costly metal to utilize but can create quite a savings in human lives.

In the end we are not suggesting that you roll a few pennies and nickels in your hands versus washing with soap and sanitizers. But who knew copper had such magical qualities?



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32 YEARS



Are We There Yet?

By Jim Stavits



When I was young, I remember we used to go on family driving vacations in my father's Buick. We would drive and drive, seemingly endlessly. This predates navigation systems when we didn't know the precise time we would arrive anywhere. After a while either my sister or I would ask, "Are we there yet?" This question always annoyed my dad and he would respond with something like, "We will be there, when we're there."

After a while, this question and answer dialog would resume again and again. The question resonates within me as we all struggle with the pandemic that has dominated our lives in 2020. We all wonder, "How long will this go on or when will there be a vaccine?" Or in other words, "Are we there yet?" It would be remiss for me to just ask the question without providing an answer, but unfortunately there is none to be found. I looked up a survey of steel users to see what their thoughts were as to how Covid had affected their businesses and when they thought life would return to "normal". The answers are below.

According to a poll from Steel Market Update (SMU) back in July, the majority of respondents believed the virus would run its course by the end of the year. In fact, only 7% thought that it would extend into next year. We have learned a lot about Covid-19 throughout this year and much of it is quite disconcerting. It is now believed here in September from 43% of respondents that the virus will likely be a drag on their business through the first or second quarter of 2021.

At the core of this sentiment is reduced demand for steel products in the marketplace coupled with the uncertainties of lockdowns that have occurred and stretched beyond anyone's expectations.



This has created an environment which stifles growth and makes companies reluctant to move forward. No one knows what lies ahead. What if there will be another wave of Covid related illnesses which would shut down our economy once again. Companies have to be concerned about Covid affecting their workplace, keeping employees safe and trying to maintain some semblance of normalcy. Many employees will continue to work remotely, out of their offices and facilities. These changes can be difficult to navigate. I can say with some certainty that it will end.... eventually. And as my father once said, "We will be there when we're there." Keep the faith!

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