

Copper Sheets and Wires

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Materials & Stock



Photo: National Museum Liverpool, Vanessa Oakden, 2009-11-06 15:23:07 — CC BY-SA 4.0 — via Wikimedia Commons
(Also_found_in_association_with_the_bracteate_was_a_broken_curved_sheet_of_gilded_copper_alloy_with_similar_decoration._-_(FindID_275539).jpg)

Copper sheet, strip and wire are versatile, conductive and workable stock for electrical work, roofing projects, jewellery, forming and art metalwork. Copper bends, solders, brazes, etches and polishes to a distinctive warm finish.

Key Features

- Sheets from 0.3 to 3 mm
- Wire gauges from 0.5 to 5 mm
- High electrical and thermal conductivity
- Soft and half-hard tempers
- Corrosion resistant with patina

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Form art panels, bowls and jewellery
- Make electrical busbars and connections
- Etch nameplates and decorative work
- Roofing and furniture detail

Safe Operation

1. Cut with snips or a fine saw
2. Form over stakes or with a hammer
3. Anneal to soften before deep forming
4. Solder or braze with flux
5. Polish or patina to finish

SAFETY NOTES

- Sharp edges - deburr and wear gloves
- Annealing copper is hot - let it cool
- Do not use copper for load-bearing wire
- Wear eye protection when cutting
- Keep away from acids

Maintenance & Consumables

- Store flat to avoid creasing
- Keep the sheet clean and dry
- Polish with metal polish
- Check for green corrosion
- Keep offcuts for small work

Specification & Buying Notes

Stock copper sheet in 0.5-1 mm for forming and electronics strip for wiring. Soft temper forms easily; half-hard holds shape. Buy from craft suppliers for small quantities.