

Vocabulary



circuit a path through which electric charges flow

A continuous, unbroken path through which electrons can flow is a closed circuit. Charges, or current, can flow only through a closed circuit. A break or opening in a circuit creates an open circuit. Charges cannot flow through a circuit that is open. A burned out bulb, dead battery, open switch, or disconnected wire can open a circuit and stop the flow of current.

current a flow of electric charges

Charges flow through a closed path called a circuit. Current flows because negatively charged particles are attracted to positively charged particles at the other end of the circuit.

resistance opposition to the flow of electric current

Current flows through some materials more easily than others. For example, the filament of a bulb resists the flow of current without stopping it. This resistance causes the filament to get hot and glow. In this way, the filament changes some electrical energy to heat and light.