

Vocabulary



conductor a material current can pass through easily

A good conductor has low resistance to the flow of electric charges. Metals, like aluminum, gold, and copper, are good conductors. Solutions that contain ions also are good conductors. A material that resists, but does not stop, the flow of electric charges is a poor conductor. The filament of a light bulb is an example of a poor conductor. Pure water is also a poor conductor of electricity.

insulator a material that current cannot pass through easily

Insulators block the flow of current. Plastic and rubber, like that used to cover wires, are examples of insulators.

ion an atom with an electric charge

When dissolved in water, molecules of table salt break apart, forming ions of sodium and chlorine. These ions have electrical charges that allow them to carry electric current through the water.