

Vocabulary



circuit a path through which electric charges flow

Electric charges flow only in a closed circuit. A closed circuit forms a continuous, unbroken loop. Electric charges cannot flow through an open circuit. An open circuit is one containing a break, such as a burned out bulb, that stops electric charges from flowing.

conductor a material that current can pass through easily

A good conductor has low resistance to the flow of electric charges. Metals, like aluminum, gold, and copper, are often good conductors of electricity. 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.