

Conductance

Try It Out

Take one of the materials out of the container, and attach it to the clip on the red wire. Touch the other red wire to the material, and observe the light bulb. Does it light? Try another material.

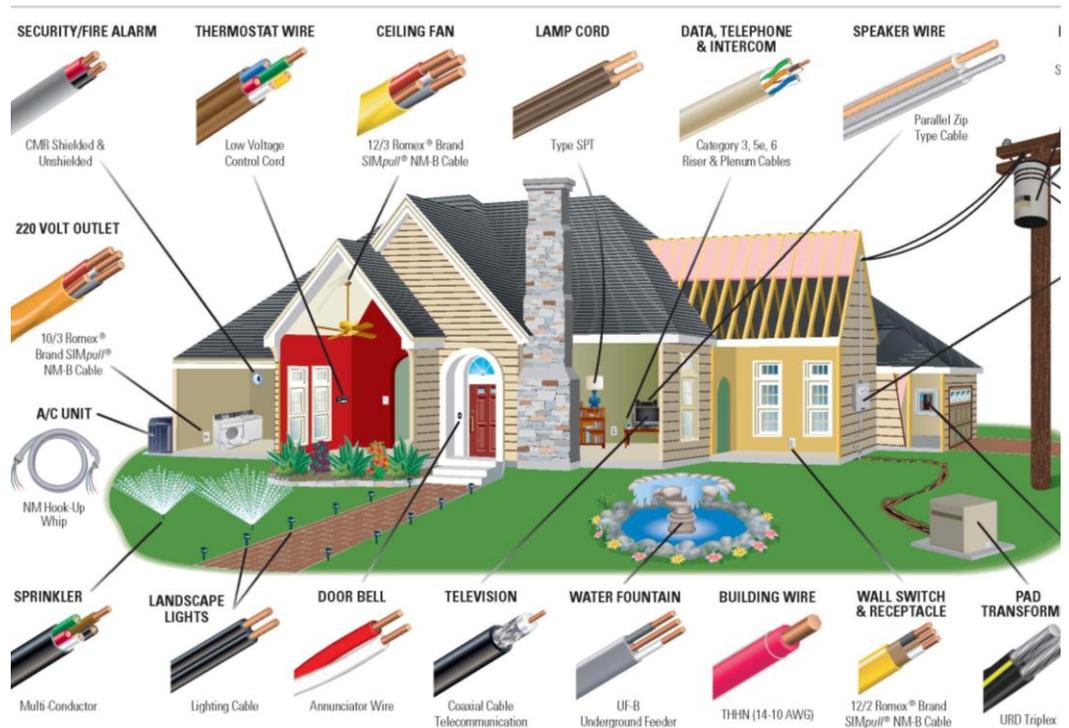
(Please disconnect the clip so that the lightbulb is not on when you leave.)

What's going on?

A **conductor** is an object or type of material that allows the flow of charge (electric current) in one or more directions. Materials made of metal are common electrical conductors.

What's the big deal?

Humans have harnessed electricity through the power of conductive materials. Power is delivered to the outlets in your house through thousands of miles of metal wire. It is such a basic component of electricity production that it's easy to take for granted. Other conductive materials, like *you*, provide a method for the touch screens on our phones to work!



Examples of wires in your home (Image: Southwire)

Wonder While You Walk...

What other materials besides metal can you think of that conduct electricity?



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