

Glossary of Wire & Cable

| Abbreviations | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| S = Service | SJT Junior hard service thermoplastic insulated conductors with overall thermoplastic jacket. | SPT-1 Thermoplastic constructed cord, parallel jacketed, 300 volt, 2 or 3 conductor, 18 gauge. | STW Hard service, indoor/outdoor water-resistant outer jacket. |
| J = Junior | SJTOW Hard service cord. Thermoplastic constructed jacket. Oil and weather resistant for outdoor use. | SPT-2 Same as SPT-1 except heavier construction, 18-16 gauge. | SVT Vacuum cleaner service cord. All plastic construction, 2 or 3 conductor. |
| O = Oil Resistant | | | |
| T = Thermoplastic/Vinyl | | | |
| W = Weather Resistant | | | |
| P = Parallel | SJTW Hard service cord. Thermoplastic constructed jacket. 300 volt, weather resistant for outdoor use. | | |

AWG American Wire Gauge. A relative system for the designation of diameter.

Alternating Current (AC) or line voltage - U.S. household standard current is 110/120 volts, 60 cycle.

AMP Load Total amount of amperage flowing through a conductor (wire) when it is loaded.

Circuit The path that electricity flows through a conductor.

Compound Insulation or jacketing material of two or more ingredients.

Conductor Material (wire) that is capable of transporting and electrical charge easily. Cords can be two or three conductor.

Cord An insulated wire (conductor) for conveying current.

CSA Canadian Standards Association, a non-profit, independent organization that operates a listing service for electrical and electronic materials and equipment. The Canadian counterpart of the Underwriters Laboratories.

Current The flow of electricity through a conductor measured in amperes.

Direct Current (DC) An electrical current that flows in one direction. Batteries are an example of DC current production.

Gauge Term used to denote physical size of wire.

Ground Electrical term referring to connecting to the earth or large conducting body to serve as earth.

Insulation Non-conductive material that surrounds or separates two conductive materials (wire).

NEMA National Electric Manufacturers.

LED Light emitting diode

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Act. Specifically the Williams-Steiger law passed in 1970 covering all factors relating to safety in places of employment.

Polarity Condition by which the direction of current flow can be determined in an electrical circuit.

Polarized Plug A plug constructed to allow insertion into a receptacle only one way because one blade is wider than the other.

PVC Polyvinyl Chloride. Compound used in thermoplastic cords.

Rated Voltage Maximum voltage at which an electrical component can be operated for extended periods without causing a safety hazard or undue degradation.

Resistance A substance that impedes the flow of current resulting in loss of power, such as heat.

Sheath Outer jacket or covering of multi-conductor cable.

Thermoplastic Plastic material that softens when heated and firms when cooled. Examples are Poly Vinyl Chloride and Polyethylene.

UL Underwriters Laboratories, an independent, non-profit organization that operates a listing service for electrical/electronic materials/ equipment.

Volt Unit to measure electromotive force.

Watt Unit of electrical power defined as one amp of current driven by one volt of electromotive force.



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