



Polyethylene	A thermoplastic material with a low dielectric constant. Usually used for coaxial cables. May be "foamed" to yield a dielectric constant between 1.4 and 1.6.	Shield Coverage	The amount of optical coverage, usually expressed in percentage. For most cables the value runs between 85% and 90%.
Polypropylene (PU)	A plastic, it is similar to polyethylene but stiffer.	Silver	Silver is similar to gold in corrosion resistance. It costs less than other precious metals. It is very soft when fully annealed but work hardens during fabrication. It provides very good conductivity and solderability. It is widely used as plating or coating.
Polyurethane	This plastic usually used as a jacketing material and offers good abrasion and is very flexible. Not normally used for insulation.	Solid Conductor	A conductor consisting of a single wire.
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)	A general thermoplastic material composed of polymers of vinyl chloride. PVC is widely used for primary wire insulation or jacketing.	SPC	Silver plated copper
Primary Insulation	An insulation material, applied over a conductor.	Spark Test	A test performed on wire and cable to determine the amount of pin holes or defects in the insulation.
PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene	Specific Gravity	The density (mass per unit volume) of any material divided by that of water at a standard temperature. Most insulations range in values of .9 to 1.9
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride	Strand	One of the wires, or groups of wires, of any stranded conductor.
Quad	A four conductor cable	Stranded Conductor	A conductor composed of a group of wires, or of any combination of groups of wires. (Note: The wires in a stranded conductor are usually twisted or braided together.)
Red Plague	A powdery brown-red oxide of silver formed with water or rocket fuel fumes. It is highly conductive and can flake off and cause shorts in electrical equipment.	Strip	To remove insulation from a wire.
Ribbon Cable	Flat cable with conductors that have been individually insulated together and "glued together".	Surface Resistivity	The resistance of a material between two opposite sides of a unit square of its surface. Surface resistivity may vary widely with the conditions of measurement.
RG/U	RG is the military designation for coaxial cable. The "U" stands for universal.	Teflon FEP	Registered trademark of the DuPont Company. Fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP). A 200°C rated Fluoropolymer that can be used for insulation and jacket applications.
Semiconducting Jacket	A jacket having a sufficiently low resistance so that its outer surface can be kept at substantially ground potential by a grounded conductor placed under the jacket.	Teflon PFA	Registered trademark of the DuPont Company. Perfluoroalkoxy (PFA). A 250 °C rated Fluoropolymer that can be used for insulation and jacket applications.
Serving	A wrapping applied over the core of a cable or over a wire. Servings may be in the form of filaments, fibers, yarn, tape, etc. Often referred to as a binder.	Teflon TFE	Registered trademark of the DuPont Company. Tetrafluoroethylene (TFE). A 260°C rated Fluoropolymer that can be used for insulation and jacket applications.
Sheath	The protective covering applied to cables. Also referred to as Jacket.		
Shield	A metallic layer placed around an insulated conductor or group of conductors to prevent electrostatic or electromagnetic interference between the enclosed wires and external fields. This shield can be braided or served wires, foil wrap, foil backed tape, a metallic tube, or conductive material.		