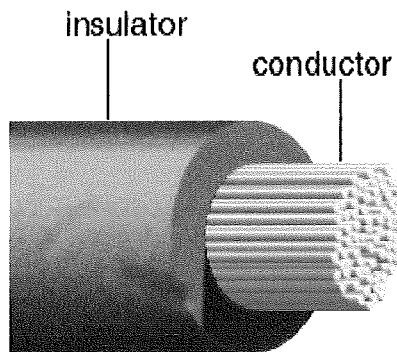


Physics 12
Section 16-3
Insulators and Conductors

1. A material that allows electric charge to move freely through it is said to be a good conductor of electricity. Metals are good conductors.
2. An insulator doesn't allow electric charge to move freely through it. Most material are insulators.



3. Another classification of material is the semiconductor. This material falls in between the insulator and conductor category. Silicon, Germanium and Carbon are some common semiconductors.
4. The electron plays a key role in distinguishing the above three categories. In a conductor the free electrons are free to move around but not leave the material, in the semi conductor there are fewer free electrons and in the insulator there are no free electrons.