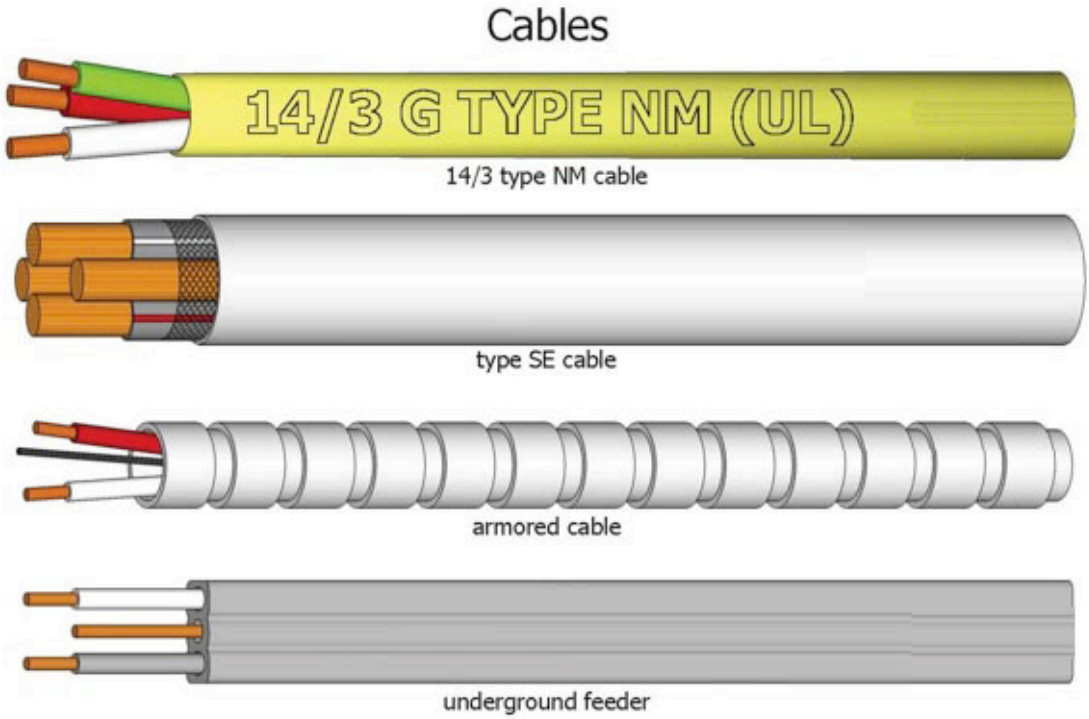
Name _____ **Date** _____

Engineering Technology Department **Period** ____

Common Electrical Conductor Types



Romex Cables

Romex is the trade name for a type of electrical conductor with non-metallic sheathing that is commonly used as residential branch wiring. The following are a few basic facts about Romex wiring:

- Romex™ is a common type of residential wiring that is categorized by the National Electrical Code (NEC) as underground feeder (UF) or non-metallic sheathed cable (NM and NMC).

- NM and NMC conductors are composed of two or more insulated conductors contained in a non-metallic sheath. The coating on NMC cable is non-conducting, flame-resistant and moisture-resistant. Unlike other cables commonly found in homes, they are permitted in damp environments, such as basements.

Service Entry (SE) Conductors

- These cables begin at the splice and enter the meter. They are not permitted inside homes, with the exception of "style R" SE cable that can serve as interior wiring in branch circuits for ovens and clothes dryers. Style R cables should be clearly marked on their jacket surfaces.

Armored Cables (AC)

- Armored cable (AC) was first called "BX" to abbreviate "product B – Experimental," although AC is far more commonly used today. Like Romex cables, they cannot be used in residences higher than three stories, and the rules for protection and support of AC wiring are essentially the same as the rules for Romex.
- Unlike Romex, however, AC wiring has a flexible metallic sheathing that allows for extra protection.

Underground feeder

- Underground feeder conductors appear similar to NM and NMC cables except that UF cables contain a solid plastic core and cannot be "rolled" between fingers.