

## Insulations and Jackets

### Overview

#### Insulations

Belden expends a great amount of time and effort to formulate its own insulations. As a result, Belden® insulations provide superior performance under a variety of hostile environmental conditions. Belden cables are available in UL Listed and CSA Approved insulation compounds.

Among the insulations we utilize are:

- **Polyethylene**
- **Polyvinyl-chloride (PVC)**
- **Polypropylene**

Also available are:

- **Datalene®** — For computer and data transmission. Datalene is crush resistant, lightweight, and offers good performance characteristics over a wide range of temperatures.
- **Teflon® Insulated Plenum & High-Temperature Cables** — For data communications, instrumentation/control, and other commercial and industrial applications. Plenum cables eliminate the need for conduit and reduce installation time.

#### Jackets

Belden electronic cables are manufactured in a wide selection of jacketing materials.

- **Flamarrest®** — A Belden jacketing innovation, Flamarrest is a low-smoke, flame retardant compound that is five times more flexible than fluorocopolymer. Cables jacketed with Flamarrest are cost efficient and easy to install.

Also included in our wide selection of jacketing compounds are:

- **Polyvinyl-chloride**
- **Polyethylene**
- **Polyurethane**
- **Teflon**
- **Tefzel®**
- **Halar®**
- **Neoprene**
- **EPDM**
- **Hypalon®**
- **Silicone rubber**
- **Natural rubber**

Special compounds and variations of standard compounds are used as well.

Teflon, Tefzel and Hypalon are DuPont trademarks.  
Halar is an Ausimont Corporation trademark.

## Insulations and Jackets

### Typical Characteristics of Popular Insulation and Jacketing Compounds

#### EPDM

EPDM (ethylene-propylene-diene elastomer) is a chemically cross-linked elastomer with excellent flexibility at high and low temperatures (150° to -55°C). It has good insulation resistance and dielectric strength, as well as excellent abrasion resistance and mechanical properties. EPDM also has better cut-through resistance than Silicone rubber, which it replaces in some applications.

EPDM is compatible with most varnishes, but after the dip and bake cycle varnish tends to adhere to the insulation (because EPDM, unlike some rubber insulations, does not exude oils or waxes). As lead wires are pulled apart for termination, the varnish cracks, sometimes breaking the insulation.

To resolve this problem, a stearic solution is applied to the lead wire during the put-up process. This ensures that rigid varnish does not cause EPDM insulation to rupture when the wire is terminated.

Field evaluations by numerous users reveal that the coated EPDM has excellent varnish resistance at least equal to synthetic elastomers, cross-link polyethylene, or Silicone glass braid in dip and bake systems.

#### Flamarrest®

Flamarrest is a plenum grade chloride-based jacketing material with low smoke and low flame spread properties. Cables jacketed with Flamarrest meet the ANSI/NFPA Standard 262-1985 (UL910), Plenum Cable Flame Test.

#### Halar®

Thermoplastic fluoropolymer material with excellent chemical resistance, electrical properties, thermal characteristics, and impact resistance. The temperature rating is -70°C to 150°C.

#### Neoprene

The temperature range of this material can vary from -55°C to 90°C. The actual range would depend on the formulation used. Neoprene is both oil-resistant and sunlight-resistant, making it ideal for many outdoor applications. The most stable colors are Black, Dark Brown, and Gray. The electrical properties are not as good as other insulation materials. Because of this, thicker insulation should be used. Typical designs where this material is used are lead wire insulation and cable jackets.

#### Polyethylene (Solid and Foamed)

A very good insulation in terms of electrical properties. Low dielectric constant, a stable dielectric constant over all frequencies, very high insulation resistance. In terms of flexibility, polyethylene can be rated stiff to very hard, depending on molecular weight and density—low density being the most flexible, with high-density, high-molecular weight formulation being very hard. Moisture resistance is rated excellent. Black and specially formulated colored versions have excellent weather resistance. The dielectric constant is 2.3 for solid insulation and typically 1.64 for foam designs. Flame retardant formulations are available with dielectric constants ranging from about 1.7 for foam flame retardant to 2.58 for solid flame retardant polyethylene.

#### Polypropylene (Solid and Foam)

Similar in electrical properties to polyethylene. This material is primarily used as an insulation material. Typically, it is harder than polyethylene. This makes it suitable for thin wall insulations. UL maximum temperature rating may be 60°C, 80°C or 105°C. The dielectric constant is 2.25 for solid and typically 1.55 for foam designs.

#### Polyurethane

This material is used primarily as a cable jacket material. It has excellent oxidation, oil, and ozone resistance. Some formations also have good flame resistance. It is a hard material with excellent abrasion resistance. It has outstanding "memory" properties, making it an ideal jacket material for retractile cords.

#### PVC

Sometimes referred to as vinyl or polyvinylchloride. Extremely high or low temperature properties cannot be found in one formulation. Certain formulations may have -55°C to 105°C rating. Other common vinyls may have -20°C to 60°C. There are many formulations for the variety of different applications. The many varieties of PVC also differ in pliability and electrical properties. The price range can vary accordingly. Typical dielectric constant values can vary from 3.5 to 6.5.

#### Rubber

The description of rubber normally includes natural rubber and SBR compounds. Both of these materials can be used for insulations and jackets. There are many formulations of these basic materials. Each formulation is for a specific application. Some formulations are suitable for -55°C minimum, while others are suitable for 75°C maximum.

#### Silicone

This is a very soft insulation which has a temperature range from -80°C to 200°C. It has excellent electrical properties plus ozone resistance, low moisture absorption, weather resistance, and radiation resistance. It typically has low mechanical strength and poor scuff resistance.

#### Teflon®

This material has excellent electrical properties, temperature range and chemical resistance. It is not suitable where subjected to nuclear radiation and does not have good high voltage characteristics. FEP Teflon is extrudable in a manner similar to PVC and polyethylene. This means that long wire and cable lengths are available. TFE Teflon is extrudable in a hydraulic ram type process. Lengths are limited due to amount of material in the ram, thickness of the insulation, and preform size. TFE must be extruded over a silver- or nickel-coated wire. The nickel- and silver-coated designs are rated 260°C and 200°C maximum, respectively. The cost of Teflon is approximately 8 to 10 times more per pound than PVC compounds.

#### Tefzel®

Fluorocopolymer thermoplastic material having excellent electrical properties, heat resistance, chemical resistance, toughness, radiation resistance, and flame resistance. The temperature rating is -65°C to 150°C.

Teflon and Tefzel are DuPont trademarks.  
Halar is a Solvay Solexis trademark.

## Insulations and Jackets

Table 4: Comparative Properties of Plastic Insulating and Jacketing Compounds

Properties	PVC	LDPE	Cellular Polyethylene	HDPE	Polypropylene	Cellular Polypropylene	PUR	Nylon	CPE	Flamarrest®
<b>Oxidation Resistance</b>	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
<b>Heat Resistance</b>	G-E	G	G	E	E	E	G	E	E	G-E
<b>Oil Resistance</b>	F	G-E	G	G-E	F	F	E	E	E	F
<b>Low-Temperature Flexibility</b>	P-G	E	E	E	P	P	G	G	E	P-G
<b>Weather, Sun Resistance</b>	G-E	E	E	E	E	E	G	E	E	G
<b>Ozone Resistance</b>	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
<b>Abrasion Resistance</b>	F-G	G	F	E	F-G	F-G	O	E	E-O	F-G
<b>Electrical Properties</b>	F-G	E	E	E	E	E	P	P	E	G
<b>Flame Resistance</b>	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E
<b>Nuclear Radiation Resistance</b>	F	G-E	G	G-E	F	F	G	F-G	O	F
<b>Water Resistance</b>	F-G	E	E	E	E	E	P-G	P-F	O	F
<b>Acid Resistance</b>	G-E	G-E	G-E	E	E	E	F	P-F	E	G
<b>Alkali Resistance</b>	G-E	G-E	G-E	E	E	E	F	E	E	G
<b>Aliphatic Hydrocarbons Resistance</b> (Gasoline, Kerosene, etc.)	P	G-E	G	G-E	P-F	P	P-G	G	E	P
<b>Aromatic Hydrocarbons Resistance</b> (Benzol, Toluol, etc.)	P-F	P	P	P	P-F	P	P-G	G	G-E	P-F
<b>Halogenated Hydrocarbons Resistance</b> (Degreaser Solvents)	P-F	G	G	G	P	P	P-G	G	E	P-F
<b>Alcohol Resistance</b>	P-F	E	E	E	E	E	P-G	P	E	G
<b>Underground Burial</b>	P-G	G	N/A	E	N/A	N/A	G	P	E-O	P

CPE = Chlorinated Polyethylene • HDPE = High-density Polyethylene • LDPE = Low-density Polyethylene • PUR = Polyurethane

These ratings are based on average performance of general purpose compounds.  
Any given property can usually be improved by the use of selective compounding.

### Legend

<b>P</b>	Poor
<b>F</b>	Fair
<b>G</b>	Good
<b>E</b>	Excellent
<b>O</b>	Outstanding

## Insulations and Jackets

Table 5: Comparative Properties of Fluoropolymer Insulating and Jacketing Compounds

Properties	FEP Teflon®	Tefzel® (ETFE)	PTFE Teflon	Solef® / Kynar® (PVDF) / PVF	Halar® (E-CTFE)
<b>Oxidation Resistance</b>	O	E	O	O	O
<b>Heat Resistance</b>	O	E	O	O	O
<b>Oil Resistance</b>	O	E	E-O	E	O
<b>Low-Temperature Flexibility</b>	O	E	O	F	O
<b>Weather, Sun Resistance</b>	O	E	O	E-O	O
<b>Ozone Resistance</b>	E	E	O	E	E
<b>Abrasion Resistance</b>	E	E	O	E	E
<b>Electrical Properties</b>	E	E	E	G-E	E
<b>Flame Resistance</b>	O	G	E	E	E-O
<b>Nuclear Radiation Resistance</b>	P-G	E	P	E	E
<b>Water Resistance</b>	E	E	E	E	E
<b>Acid Resistance</b>	E	E	E	G-E	E
<b>Alkali Resistance</b>	E	E	E	E	E
<b>Aliphatic Hydrocarbons Resistance</b> (Gasoline, Kerosene, etc.)	E	E	E	E	E
<b>Aromatic Hydrocarbons Resistance</b> (Benzol, Toluol, etc.)	E	E	E	G-E	E
<b>Halogenated Hydrocarbons Resistance</b> (Degreaser Solvents)	E	E	E	G	E
<b>Alcohol Resistance</b>	E	E	E	E	E
<b>Underground Burial</b>	E	E	E	E	E

These ratings are based on average performance of general purpose compounds.  
Any given property can usually be improved by the use of selective compounding.

### Legend

<b>P</b>	Poor
<b>F</b>	Fair
<b>G</b>	Good
<b>E</b>	Excellent
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Teflon and Tefzel are DuPont trademarks.  
Halar is a Solvay Solexis trademark.  
Solef is a Solvay trademark.  
Kynar is a Atofina Chemical Corporation trademark.

## Insulations and Jackets

Table 6: Comparative Properties of Rubber Insulations

Properties	Rubber	Neoprene	Hypalon® (Chlorosulfonated Polyethylene)	EPDM (Ethylene-Propylene- Diene Elastomer)	Silicone
<b>Oxidation Resistance</b>	F	G	E	E	E
<b>Heat Resistance</b>	F	G	E	E	O
<b>Oil Resistance</b>	P	G	G	P	F-G
<b>Low-Temperature Flexibility</b>	G	F-G	F	G-E	O
<b>Weather, Sun Resistance</b>	F	G	E	E	O
<b>Ozone Resistance</b>	P	G	E	E	O
<b>Abrasion Resistance</b>	E	G-E	G	G	P
<b>Electrical Properties</b>	G	P	G	E	G
<b>Flame Resistance</b>	P	G	G	P	F-G
<b>Nuclear Radiation Resistance</b>	F	F-G	E	G	E
<b>Water Resistance</b>	G	E	E	G-E	G-E
<b>Acid Resistance</b>	F-G	G	E	G-E	F-G
<b>Alkali Resistance</b>	F-G	G	E	G-E	F-G
<b>Aliphatic Hydrocarbons Resistance</b> (Gasoline, Kerosene, etc.)	P	G	F	P	P-F
<b>Aromatic Hydrocarbons Resistance</b> (Benzol, Toluol, etc.)	P	P-F	F	F	P
<b>Halogenated Hydrocarbons Resistance</b> (Degreaser Solvents)	P	P	P-F	P	P-G
<b>Alcohol Resistance</b>	G	F	G	P	G

These ratings are based on average performance of general purpose compounds.  
Any given property can usually be improved by the use of selective compounding.

### Legend

<b>P</b>	Poor
<b>F</b>	Fair
<b>G</b>	Good
<b>E</b>	Excellent
<b>O</b>	Outstanding

Hypalon is a DuPont trademark.

## Insulations and Jackets

Table 7: Nominal Temperature Range for Various Insulating and Jacketing Compounds

Compound	Normal Low	Normal High	Special Low	Special High
Chlorosulfonated Polyethylene (Hypalon®)	-20°C	90°C	-40°C	105°C
EPDM (Ethylene-Propylene-Diene Monomer)	-55°C	105°C	—	150°C
Neoprene	-20°C	60°C	-55°C	90°C
Polyethylene (Solid and Foamed)	-60°C	80°C	—	—
Polypropylene (Solid and Foamed)	-40°C	105°C	—	—
Rubber	-30°C	60°C	-55°C	75°C
FEP Teflon®	-70°C	200°C	—	—
PVC	-20°C	80°C	-55°C	105°C
Silicone	-80°C	150°C	—	200°C
Halar®	-70°C	150°C	—	—
Tefzel®	-65°C	150°C	—	—
PTFE Teflon	-70°C	260°C	—	—
CPE	-35°C	90°C	-45°C	105°C
Solef® / Kynar®	-20°C	150°/125°C	-40°C	150°/150°C
Flamarrest®	-20°C	75°C	—	—

Hypalon, Teflon and Tefzel are DuPont trademarks.  
 Halar is a Solvay Solaxis trademark.  
 Solef is a Solvay trademark.  
 Kynar is a Atofina Chemical Corporation trademark.

## Shielding and Armoring

### Overview

#### Innovative Leadership

The evolution of technology maintains steady demand for sophisticated cable shielding. Belden meets that demand with innovative shielding and shield effectiveness testing methods to supply you with high quality, dependable cable.

With the creation of trademarked shield designs and patented test methods, Belden has earned a reputation for innovation and leadership that is unequalled in the wire and cable industry. In addition, Belden offers the broadest line of shielded multi-conductor, coaxial and flat cable in the industry.

Several unique Belden innovations are utilized across a wide range of shielding applications:

- **Beldfoil®** — The first aluminum/polyester foil developed for use as a cable shield. Provides 100% shield coverage for optimum protection.
- **Duofoil®** — Consists of an aluminum-poly-aluminum laminate wrapped around the cable's dielectric core. Provides 100% physical coverage, and improves shield reliability and flex life.

Belden also utilizes a number of innovative techniques to apply shielding to multi-conductor and paired cables:

- **“French Braid” Shields** — Belden's patented “French Braid” shield is a double spiral (double serve shield) with the two spirals tied together by one weave.



Belden's patented “French Braid” shield.

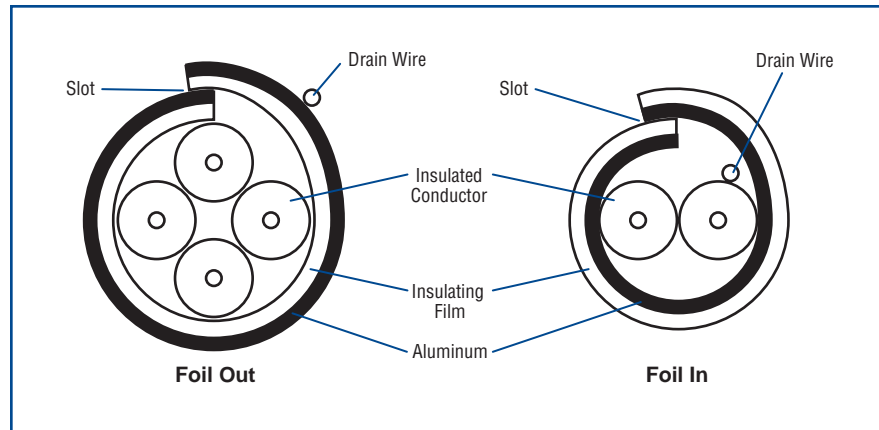


Figure 1: Foil shield configurations without shorting folds.

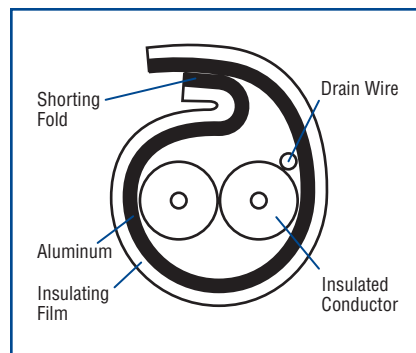


Figure 2: Foil shield configuration with shorting fold.

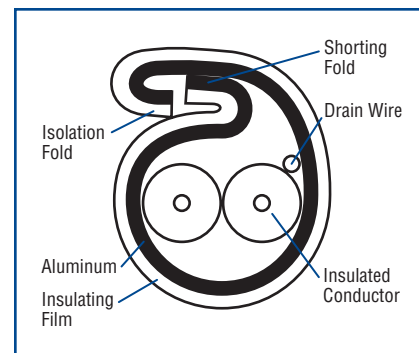


Figure 3: Foil shield with Z-Fold reduces crosstalk in multi-pair applications.

- **Shorting Fold** — Belden uses a shorting fold technique to maintain metal-to-metal contact for improved high frequency performance. Without the shorting fold, a slot is created through which signals can leak and cause interference. (See Figures 1 and 2 above.)

- **Z-Fold®** — Belden improves on the traditional shorting fold by employing a Z-Fold designed for use in multi-pair applications to reduce crosstalk. The Z-Fold (see Figure 3) combines an isolation and a shorting fold. The shorting fold provides metal-to-metal contact while the isolation fold keeps shields from shorting to one another in multi-pair, individually shielded cables.

The use of either a shorting fold or a Z-Fold increases the foil shield's range of effectiveness to higher frequencies.