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Electricity & Electrosurgery: Common Terms & Concepts

Term	Definition
Amperes (Amps)	Volume of electrons in an electrical current
Circuit	Closed loop along which electrons flow
Conductor	Materials that allows electrons to flow easily
Density	Surface area where an electrical current is concentrated
Duty cycle	Percentage of time electrical current is “flowing” vs. “not flowing”
Electrical current	Discharge of electrons (or “flow) of electrons
Frequency	Rate a waveform repeats itself within a set period of time
Grounding	Dissipation of free electrons
Hertz	Measurement of frequency, or number of times a waveform repeats itself per second
Insulator	Material that inhibits the flow of electrons
Resistance	Ease through which electrons flow
Voltage (Volts)	Force which provides the “push” electrons need to flow through wire, usually provided by a battery or generator
Watts	Rate an electrical “load,” such as a light bulb, pushes electrons to create an effect
Waveform	Pattern of electrical energy over time