When it comes to connecting wires, there are three main types of insulated terminal styles that may be used: Vinyl/PVC, Nylon, and Heat Shrink. Bare parts of these terminals are most commonly made of copper and then tin-plated to prevent corrosion. The hardest choice a technician has when joining two wires together is choosing the right insulation for the application.

Vinyl connectors have a jacketing made from Polyvinyl Chloride plastic, most commonly known as PVC. While the insulation on these terminals is able to protect against short circuits, there is little other benefit to choosing this connector when making a repair. The wires being repaired remain exposed to the elements and can quickly corrode. The strength of this connection is dependent on the strength of a single crimp. Not only that, the insulation becomes brittle and cracks as it ages, a process accelerated by sun exposure. These connectors are the least expensive choice, providing a quality reflective of the price.

Like vinyl connectors, nylon terminals do not protect the wires from corrosive elements. Usually designed to be crimped twice, nylon terminals are stronger than vinyl connectors as the double-crimp delivers ad ad u