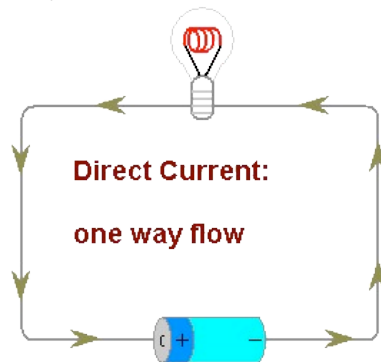
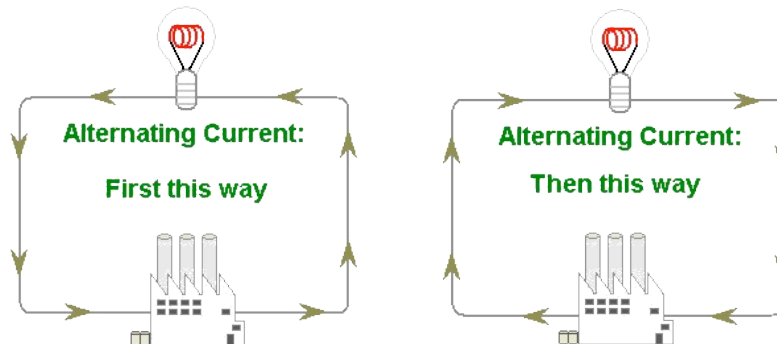


## Types of Electrical Current

- There are two types of electrical current, ***dc (direct current)*** and ***ac (alternating current)***. The difference between these currents is how they flow through an electrical circuit.
- ***Direct current*** flows in only ***one*** direction through an electrical circuit.
  - o An example of direct current is a ***standard battery***. The battery has a set ***polarity*** (positive (+) and negative (-) terminals) and will produce an electric current in only one direction.



- ***Alternating current*** flows in both directions. First it flows in one direction, and then it reverses its flow to the opposite direction. There are no positive or negative polarity markings in alternating current because the polarity changes rapidly in the typical ac electrical circuit.
  - o An example of alternating current is a ***light***. The light does not have a set ***polarity*** (positive (+) and negative (-) terminals) and will produce an electric current in both directions.



- The terms ***cycle*** and ***hertz*** are used to describe how fast the current is alternating or changing direction in the circuit.