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Power cables or power cord terms are generally used to refer cables which are used to connect our various appliances to the main power supply using a power plug. The other terms used for these power cables are flex lead, main lead or kettle lead etc. Usually power cords have one end permanently joined the appliances and the other to be joined into the power plug. These days most of our home appliances come with more safer and different type of cables called cord sets. These cord sets which prevails the whole market at present and have the same use as that of power cables but provides the equipment and appliances with extra safety and shock proof features.

The cord sets like the power cables are made of flexible cord but have male and female connectors. One end of the cord set is attached to a molded electrical plug and the other is typically a molded electrical receptacle to prevent the possibility of having an exposed live prong or pin which would cause electric shock. The female plug is connected to the piece of equipment or appliance while the male plug connects to the electrical receptacle or outlet. A cord set sometimes includes accessories such as fuses for over current protection. Power cords for sensitive instruments usually include a shield over the power conductors to minimize electromagnetic interference.

Power cables come in normal and high-temperature variants for various rated currents. The connectors usually have slightly different shapes to ensure that it is not possible to substitute a cable with a lower temperature or current rating. These cords have different types of exterior jackets available to accommodate environmental variables such as moisture, temperature, oils, sunlight, flexibility and heavy wear. For example, a heating appliance may come with a cord designed to withstand accidental contact with heated surfaces.

There are international standard designs and shape assigned for power cables for particular appliances and equipment based on the current ratings of them which gives the user more choices across the brands. But there are many manufacturers which do have their unique designs and shapes to insure the products safety but these are mostly very costly which led to the emergence of small manufacturers who make good quality cords supplies across the brands and charge comparatively lesser amount. The different cables include your destop/laptop power cables, mobile charger cables and other daily use appliances cables.

One must be careful about the choice of power cords as similar looking cords may have different current ratings and may not be good to use in certain appliances which have different ratings.

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