
SIGNS OF TROUBLE

WARM-TO-THE-TOUCH FACE PLATES ON OUTLETS OR SWITCHES
FLICKERING LIGHTS
INOPERABLE CIRCUITS
SMELL OF BURNING PLASTIC AT OUTLETS OR SWITCHES

ALUMINUM WIRING



3 ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF REPAIR BY QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN

1. ALUMICONN CONNECTORS (AL/CU) AT EVERY CONNECTION
 2. COPALUM CRIMP CONNECTORS AT EVERY CONNECTION (requires special tool & certification making it costly)
 3. REWIRING WITH COPPER
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These methods are according to the U.S.
Consumer Product Safety Commission

THE HAZARD

Prior to 1965 it is unlikely to find aluminum wiring. It was used from 1965 to 1973 and sometimes later.

The hazard occurs at the connections such as the outlets, switches, dishwashers, furnaces or other major appliances.

Corrosion of the metals in the connection, particularly the aluminum wire itself, causes increased resistance to the electric current and the resistance causes overheating.

Residences with aluminum wiring (old technology manufactured prior to 1972) are 55% more likely to have one or more electrical connections reach fire hazard conditions than a residence wired with copper.

In 1972, manufacturers modified aluminum wire, switches and outlets to improve performance of connections. However, the old technology continued to be sold.

You can identify aluminum wiring by examining electric cables in unfinished basements, attics or garages. Aluminum wiring will have "Al" or "Aluminum" marked every few feet along the length of the cable.