



## ALUMINUM WIRING

- **WHEN WAS IT USED?**

1964 to 1975

- **CHARACTERISTICS**

Silver in color. Visible in main panel and at devices (Receptacles and switches). Also sheathing is labeled AL or Aluminum. Larger gauges are still in use and perform well. It was determined that 12 and 10 gauge wire had issues with expansion/contraction and oxidation. This led to its removal from the market in 1975. There was also a copper clad aluminum wire that while less reactive was also discontinued. The loose connections could overheat and in some cases fires did occur.

- **CARE**

First, there is no reason to re-wire. The issues virtually always occur at the connections. There is no rule that indicates any action is needed if the wire was installed properly and is performing. There are some dos and don'ts regarding installation. First no back stabbing connections could be used. Since the mid-seventies any connections of aluminum wire should be made using an aluminum approved device or an approved pigtail procedure. These products are available through electrical supply houses. It is recommended that houses with this aluminum wire be inspected periodically by a qualified electrician.

- **LIFE EXPECTANCY**

Indefinite with proper care.

- **WHO TO CALL**

An electrician with knowledge of aluminum wire procedures. Not all electricians have worked with this product.

- **INDUSTRY STANDARD**

There are no requirements to do anything with aluminum wire in a home. There are many thousands of homes wired with it. Be prudent, have an initial full inspection on it when you buy. If problems are found have them repaired. Some people choose to redo all connections which can eliminate the need to have subsequent inspections.