

Aluminum wiring was installed in homes between 1965 and 1973 after which it was discovered that it is a potential fire hazard and banned from further use, (10 Gauge and smaller). The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has had research conducted that has demonstrated that homes with this old style aluminum wiring (pre-1972) are 55 times more likely to have one or more connections reach fire hazard conditions than homes wired with copper. The hazard occurs at connections, such as at receptacles, switches, and at major appliance connections. Corrosion of the metals in the connection, particularly the wire itself, causes increased resistance to the flow of electricity that causes overheating. Modern standards require the use of newer, safer devices (Receptacles, switches, and circuit breakers, etc.) labeled ALR rather than the older AL devices used here.

<http://www.statefarm.com/consumer/vhouse/articles/aluminum.htm>

http://tooling.tycoelectronics.com/wiring_dangers.stm