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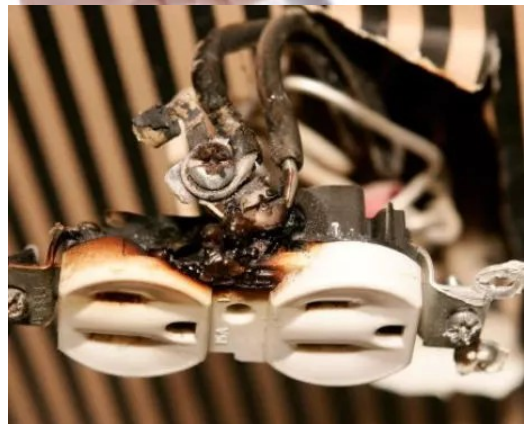
Hint and Tip Number 25: Dangers Of Aluminum Wiring

May 14th, 2018

Aluminum wiring is usually found in older homes and can be very dangerous. So if you are living or thinking of purchasing an older home this article is for you.

Why Did People Use Aluminum In The First Place?

In the 1950's to the 1970's, many homes were being wired with aluminum wiring. The reason for this was because the price of copper (material normally used for electrical wires) had increased and the use of aluminum would undercut the high costs.



The Hazards

Despite the reduced cost and increased conductivity, aluminum wiring has many potential issues. Aluminum wiring is much softer than copper wiring. This means there is a danger aluminum wiring could be broken, cut, and damaged which can leave live electrical wires exposed. Aluminum wires can also rust which will impede the flow of electricity and can cause a number of other issues. Aluminum also expands and contracts when it becomes hot. This constant flux in size will result in the wires loosening themselves and connections become loose. For all these reasons aluminum is prone to overheat and cause electrical fires.

Warning Signs

If you are not sure you have aluminum wirings in your home, here are a few signs to be on the lookout for.

- Light Switches and electrical outlets become warm and discoloured
- Smoke or sparks occur when connecting electrical devices to the home
- Constantly tripping breakers or fuses

If you are experiencing some of these problems, contact the experts at Thomas Edison Electric and we can schedule one of our licensed Technicians to visit your home and conduct an inspection of your home.

