



When it comes to aluminum wiring, there is a lot of misinformation going around. Many people panic when they find out they have aluminum wiring in their homes. Many questions may arise such as:

- What is wrong with aluminum wiring?
- Is it safe?
- Do I need to have it replaced?
- Why was it installed in my home?

Some common myths with aluminum wiring is that it's no longer approved and that it has been recalled.

Let me put your mind at ease and tell you that there is nothing wrong with aluminum wiring. It is safe and does not need to be replaced; there are some considerations to be aware of. Aluminum wiring must be terminated with special wire connectors and when installing devices, these devices must be approved for use with aluminum wiring. Another thing to consider, aluminum rated devices such as receptacles and switches are about 7 times more costly than copper rated devices.

When working with aluminum wiring, a deoxidizer is often used to coat the wire and protect it from the elements. When aluminum is exposed to air, it starts to oxidize. This oxidizing creates a film that covers the exposed aluminum making it more resistant at the connection interfering the flow of electricity thus creating heat. As this vicious cycle goes on, resistance builds up and creates more heat. Heat can weaken devices, loosen connections, and is the leading cause of electrical fires.



Device approved for aluminum wiring

COALR or CO/ALR approved for aluminum



Device not approved for aluminum wiring

devices marked CU-only are for use only with copper wire

You can easily identify if you have the right device simply by removing the device plate and locating the stamp displayed in the above diagrams. For more information, contact MCC Electric at www.mccelectric.ca/contact-mcc or (506) 651-5168