



The Marvin H.
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ALUMINUM WIRE CONNECTION REPAIR

When proper controls are used, aluminum wire is considered acceptable but not as safe as copper. A significant problem with aluminum wiring is found with its connections to switches, outlets, fixtures, etc. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends only one method for correcting aluminum wire connections: A specially designed crimping connector called COPALUM. However, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission does not have legal jurisdiction to mandate the exclusive use of this method. There are UL listed wire nuts designed for the correction of aluminum wire connections and many electricians will recommend this method because it is typically less expensive than the COPALUM crimp. There are also switches and outlets that are UL listed according to manufactures, for direct connection of aluminum wire. These switches and outlets will be marked CU AL or CO/ALR; however, electricians have reported to us that these are becoming harder to obtain. We recommend contacting your local or State electrical code enforcement officer before corrections are made.

Copalum Crimp , UL listed wire nuts, Outlets & switches designed for aluminum: \$50 - \$125 depending upon which method is used. During this repair process anti-oxidant paste should be applied to the end of the wires connected to the breakers.

Actual prices can vary significantly depending on the contractor and area you live in. Obtaining at least three actual contractor prices is recommended before making decisions.