

Zinsco Electrical Panel Failures



Milestone Electric, Dallas/Ft. Worth

<http://www.milestoneelectricdfw.com/>

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Zinsco Info: https://inspectapedia.com/electric/Zinsco_Electrical_Panels.php

Zinsco Sylvania Failures

- Burning, deteriorated bus bars
- Burning, deteriorated circuit breaker connectors
- Circuit breaker case side blowouts
- Failures to trip on overcurrent
- Point of failure appears to be at the point of contact where the circuit breaker contacts clip onto the electrical panel bus, combined with the use of an aluminum electrical panel bus.

Typical Field Failure Observations

- Buzzing, smoking, odors at electric panel
- Breakers fail to trip on overcurrent
- Burn-ups at wired devices, outlets, &c.
- Lost power on individual circuits
- Visual inspection of panel: arcing (often not apparent without removing breakers)



Zinsco Testing / Failure Rates

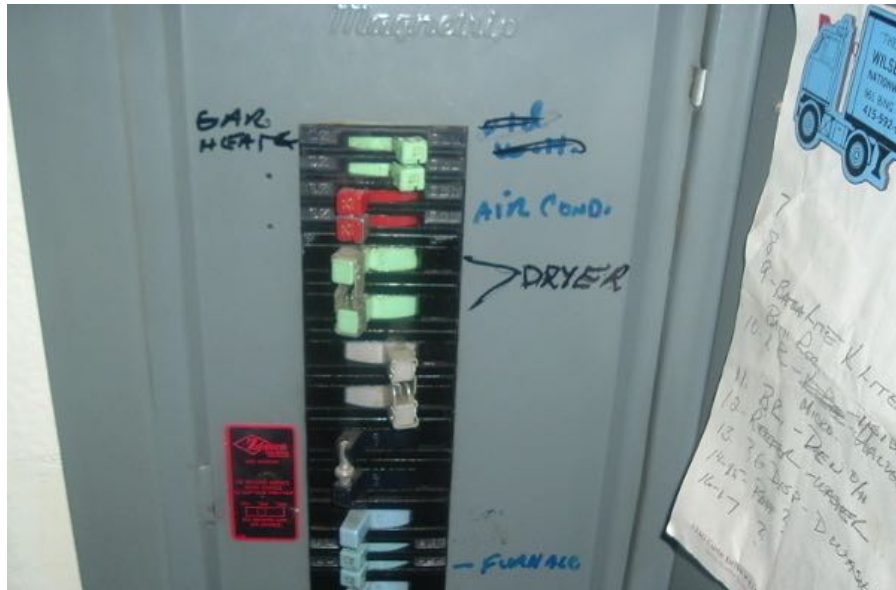
- Expert testing on this equipment has shown that circuit breakers do not trip about 25% of the time when exposed to overcurrent - risking overheating, fire and other hazards. The failure rate of competitive-brand circuit breakers is much less than 1%. – Simmons
- Limited testing performed to date
- Fewer field-failure reports than FPE (fewer installed?)

Zinsco Product Names

- Sylvania™
- GTE-Sylvania™
- Kearney™



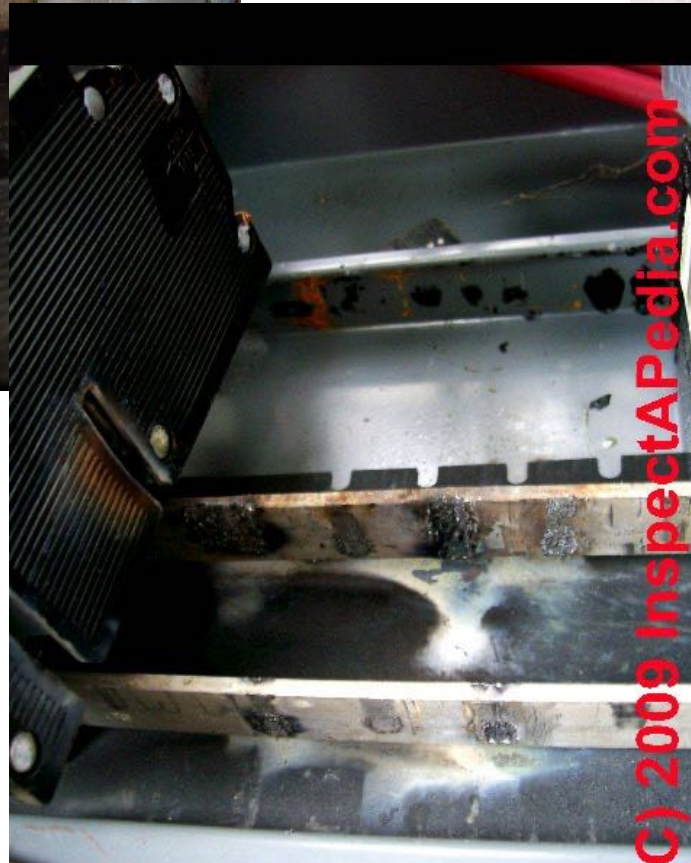
How to Identify Zinsco Electrical Equipment



Zinsco Bus Burning



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Zinsco Breaker Contact Burning



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Zinsco Breaker Blowouts

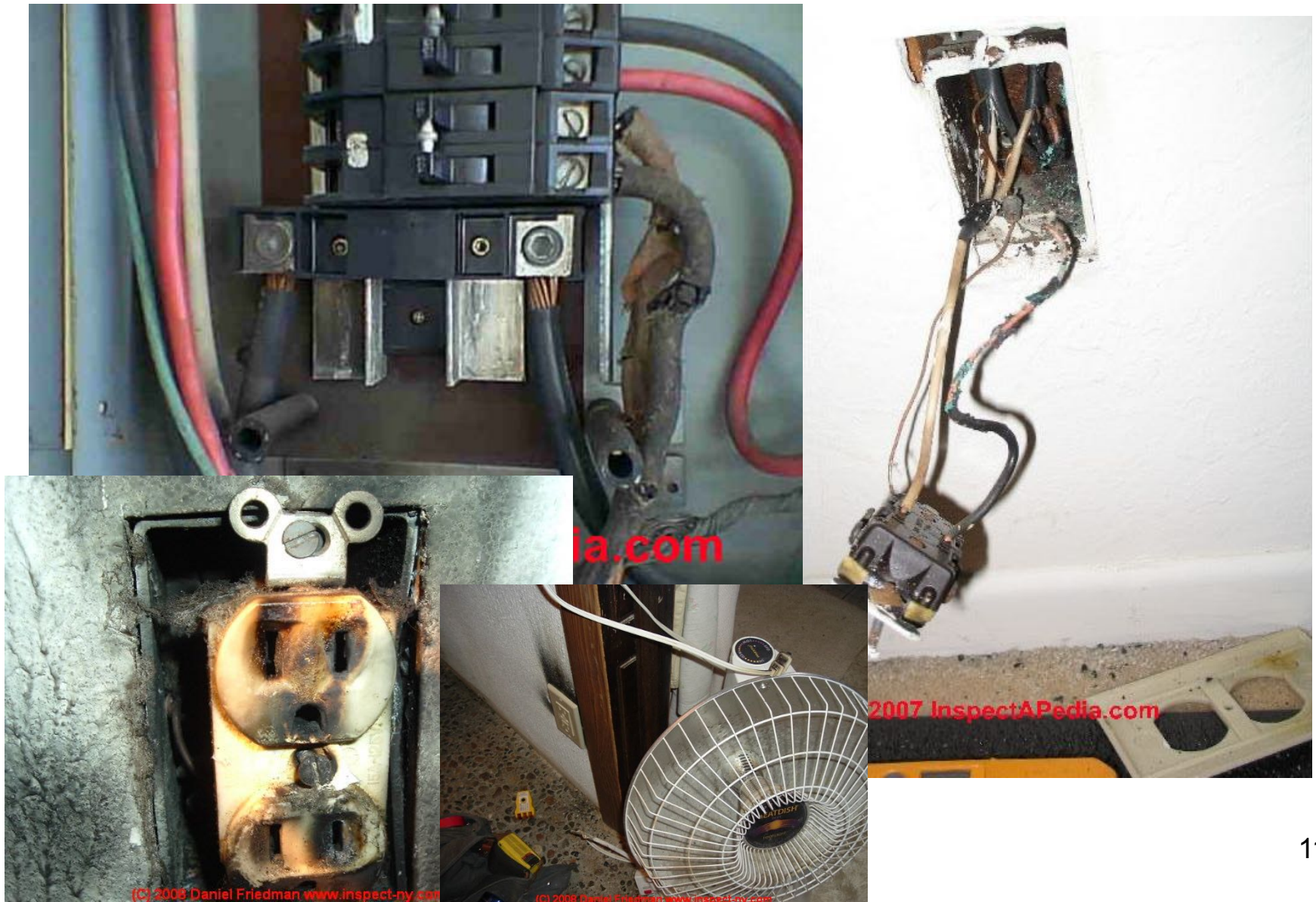


Zinsco-Sylvania Main Breaker Failures

- Failure to Trip on Overcurrent



Zinsco Breaker No-Trips



Advice for Home Owners – Zinsco/ Sylvania/Kearney

- Failure to trip on over-current, arcing, contact-point burn, & even circuit breaker case blow-out have been observed in the field
- Zinsco and Zinsco-Sylvania circuit breakers do not offer the level of fire protection provided by most other brands
- Zinsco and Zinsco-Sylvania electrical panels should be replaced to reduce fire and shock hazards.

Zinsco-Sylvania References

- ZINSCO SYLVANIA ELECTRICAL PANELS
- <http://inspectapedia.com/electric/Zinsco.htm>
- ZINSCO SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
- http://inspectapedia.com/electric/Zinsco_Warnings.htm
- IDENTIFY ZINSCO ELECTRICAL PANELS
- http://inspectapedia.com/electric/Zinsco_Identification.htm
- IDENTIFY GTE SYLVANIA-ZINSCO PANELS
- http://inspectapedia.com/electric/GTE_Sylvania_Zinsco.htm
- IDENTIFY KEARNEY PANELS
- http://inspectapedia.com/electric/Kearney_Electrical_Panels.htm
- GTE-SYLVANIA-ZINSCO FAILURE MECHANISM
http://inspectapedia.com/electric/Zinsco_Failures.htm
- ZINSCO FAILURE REPORTS
- http://inspectapedia.com/electric/Zinsco_Reports.htm