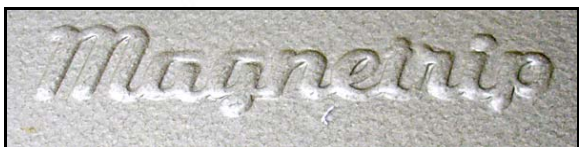




The majority of the Zinsco panels have this blue and black foil label on the inside cover with colorful red, blue and green breakers.

The earlier and less common version of this equipment was called a Zinsco **Magnetrip** and had this label stamped on the enclosure.



Other less common markings to look for are these logos stamped on enclosures.

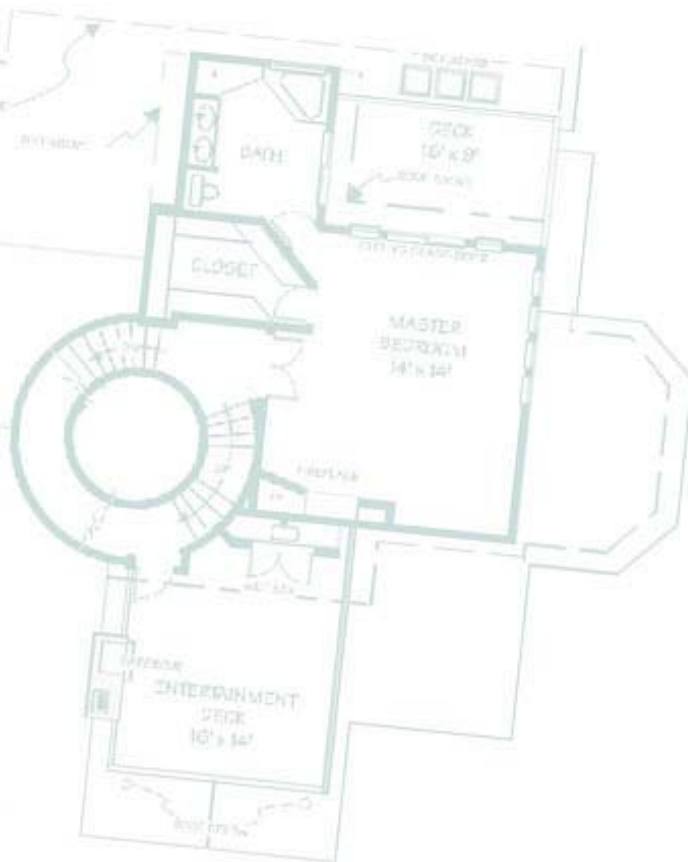


These panels were also in later years manufactured by **Sylvania**. They used the Zinsco design and had the same reputation.



The Sylvania has the blue foil label inside with the same flawed breaker and bus bar connection design. These panels are ones that we recommend prompt replacement.

Not all Sylvania panels have this design. Modern Sylvania equipment is sold under the name Challenger, and does not share the Zinsco design and is considered safe.



The home Inspectors

Tip Sheet

Expert advice for homeowner's questions

Zinsco & Sylvania Electric Panels



The Zinsco panel is one of the most common brands of dangerous electrical equipment we see

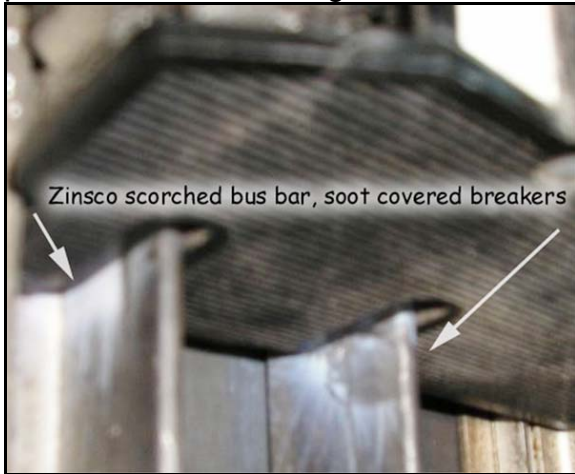
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Zinsco electrical equipment is known to be hazardous for several reasons.

They have been manufactured with aluminum bus bars and poor connection clips at the breakers. It is the bus bar and breaker contact points arcing and overheating that have caused many of the problems with this design.



All breakers have very carefully calibrated springs and other components. Arcing where these breakers contact the bus bar is a common problem with this design. This can result in the overheating and incapacitation of the breakers. We have seen these breakers with their cases blown out and leaving soot on the inside of the enclosures.

Another problem with this equipment is that the breakers have no positive locking position in the panel. Instead, they have a smooth bus bar to attach to, and they will sometimes slip down. When the breakers slip, they arc, carbonize and build up resistance. This resistance causes more heating resulting in breaker failure and/or possible fire.

Most reputable electricians won't service these anymore, and replacement is strongly recommended.

This is a panel that we inspected; note my fingerprints in the soot on the cover.



This panel was one of the most dangerous ones we have seen yet. I knew it would be a mess when we saw the seller had painted the enclosure a nice clean silver. It was full of soot and charred wires.



This is another panel with soot inside. There was a blown out breaker in this panel.

The breakers are usually brightly colored red, blue and green.



These are sample tags on the breakers inside.

