

Lighting

Tallow candles, paraffin wax candles and oil and kerosene lamps were in general use until the arrival of electric lighting. This happened in Copenhagen in the 1890s.

Gas was also used for lighting in residential homes for a few decades from around 1880 onwards, though only in the form of permanently mounted "chandeliers" hanging in the centre of the room.

The widespread adoption of electric lighting in new buildings was rapid. Electric cables were insulated with a coat of rubber and canvas and carried in iron (or brass) pipes right up to the 1950s.

Such pipes were usually submerged into storey partitions. Vertically positioned leads could be drilled into walls, but were usually left visible. The entire installation was ideally supplied from a switchboard via a terminal strip along the wall and ceiling in the entrance or corridor.

Later on, leads were insulated with plastic. Pipes are of the same material and, in general, are either embedded (in concrete walls) or drilled in (in lightweight concrete walls), or otherwise routed into voids under the chocked-up wooden flooring.

