

Heat shrink tubing for pigtails



Overview

Heat shrink is a form of shrinkable plastic often used in electrical work to insulate wires & cable.

Key Takeaways

Polyolefin heat shrink tubing, often with a 2:1 shrink ratio, is the most commonly used type for pigtail connections due to its flexibility, electrical insulation, and durability. Recommended Material

For pigtails, polyolefin tubing is generally preferred because it provides excellent electrical insulation, mechanical protection, and moderate environmental resistance, making it suitable for automotive, industrial, and household wiring applications. For outdoor or moisture-prone environments, dual-wall adhesive-lined heat shrink tubing is recommended, as the inner adhesive layer seals the connection against water, corrosion, and contaminants. PVC tubing can be used for low-stress or indoor applications, but it is less flexible and has lower temperature tolerance.

Shrink Ratio and Size

A 2:1 shrink ratio is standard for pigtails, meaning the tubing will shrink to half its original diameter when heated. This ensures a snug fit over the wire splice or connector. For irregular or larger connectors, higher shrink ratios like 3:1 or 4:1 may be used to accommodate varying diameters. The tubing diameter should be slightly larger than the wire bundle before shrinking to allow easy installation.

Temperature and Durability

Polyolefin tubing typically shrinks at around 120°C (248°F) and can operate continuously between -55°C to +135°C (-67°F to +275°F) . Adhesive-lined variants provide additional protection against moisture and mechanical stress. For high-temperature applications, PTFE (Teflon) tubing can be used, but it is less common for standard pigtails due to its high shrink temperature and cost .

Installation Tips

- Slide the tubing over the pigtail before making the connection.
- After splicing or connecting, position the tubing over the joint.
- Apply heat evenly using a heat gun to shrink the tubing. Avoid open flames to prevent scorching or melting .
- For adhesive-lined tubing, ensure the adhesive melts and flows to seal the connection completely. Using the correct heat shrink tubing ensures electrical safety, mechanical stability, and long-term reliability for pigtail connections in any wiring system .

Article Content

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This kit is perfect for waterproofing EasyPlug3 and EasyPlug4 pigtails and includes the following items: 6 Inches of 1/8" clear shrink

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3M Heat Shrink Tubing

Cross-linked tubing which arrives expanded to be applied to the juncture or cable to be sealed and recovers to its smaller diameter in

Wire Shrink Tubing

Heat shrink and cold shrink tubing are sleeves that form a tight seal around wire, cable, and connectors and are used for protection,

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