

# ULINE

## SHRINK WRAP GUIDE

### WHICH GAUGE SHOULD I USE?



- Gauge is a measure of film thickness. 55 gauge is thin and 200 gauge is thick.
- Thinner gauges shrink more easily and wrap more packages per roll.
- Thicker gauges are for wrapping heavy products or items with sharp edges.
- Thicker gauges give a more premium feel to your packaging and offer stronger protection.

### WHICH SHRINK WRAP SHOULD I USE?

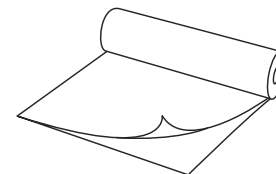
FEATURE	Shrink Film			Bundling Shrink Film
	PVC	Economy Polyolefin	Deluxe Polyolefin	Polyethylene
Clarity	Excellent	Good	Good	Fair
Texture	Crinkly	Soft, Flexible	Soft, Flexible	Soft, Flexible
For Direct Food Contact	No	Yes	Yes	No
Shrink Temperature	121°C (250°F)	149°C (300°F)	149°C (300°F)	129°C (265°F)
Amount of Shrink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35% of film length</li> <li>• 50% of film width</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 67% of film length</li> <li>• 64% of film width</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% of film in all directions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 - 20% of film in all directions</li> </ul>
Puncture Resistance	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excellent
Suggested Use	Books, Games, Office Supplies	Toys, Gift Baskets, Stationery	Candles, Soaps, Medicine Bottles	Canned Goods, Water Bottle Packs

1-800-295-5510 [uline.ca](http://uline.ca)

**HELPFUL HINTS**

**SHRINK FILM**

- All film is centerfold, so film comes folded in half lengthways on rolls.
- How to find the film width you need:



**CENTERFOLD**

**For rectangular items:**

1. Add the width and height.
2. Add 2" for shrinkage.
3. Round up to the next whole number.

**Example:** 12" L x 8" W x 3.5" H box

$$8" W + 3.5" H = 11.5"$$

$$11.5" + 2" = 13.5"$$

$$13.5" \text{ rounds up to } 14"$$

**Result:** 14" film width is required.

**For round items:**

1. Multiply the diameter by 3.14.
2. Multiply by 1.1 to add 10% for shrinkage.
3. Divide the result by 2.
4. Round up to the next whole number.

**Example:** 5.5" diameter candle

$$5.5" \text{ diameter} \times 3.14 = 17.27"$$

$$17.27" \times 1.1 = 18.997"$$

$$18.997" \div 2 = 9.4985"$$

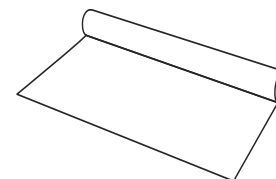
$$9.4985" \text{ rounds up to } 10"$$

**Result:** 10" film width is required.

- Centerfold film must be sealed on 3 sides around the product before shrinking.
- To determine mil thickness, divide gauge by 100.  
For example, 75 gauge  $\div$  100 = 0.75 mil
- **PVC** – The smallest amount of shrink and lowest sealing temperature make PVC easy to work with.
- **Economy Polyolefin** – Best value. FDA compliant for direct food contact and puncture resistant.
- **Deluxe Polyolefin** – Best for odd-shaped items. It shrinks in all directions and offers the finest presentation.

**BUNDLING SHRINK FILM**

- All film is single wound, so film comes unfolded on rolls.
- Use to bulk pack heavy goods, such as cleaning supplies or water bottle packs.
- Widely used with automated packaging equipment with integrated heat tunnels.
- All of Uline's bundling film is 200 gauge polyethylene, which is up to 3 times stronger than standard shrink films.



**SINGLE WOUND**