Medical device engineers are always looking for new ways to make devices smaller and thinner, especially catheters, endoscopes, and other devices for minimally invasive procedures.

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With walls as little as 0.0001” - 0.0005” thick (compared to 0.008” or greater for FEP heat shrink tubing), PET heat shrink tubing is ideal for use in medical devices because it can be left in the finished device without significantly affecting the profile (size). It combines incredible strength and durability with extraordinarily thin walls.

APPLICATIONS INCLUDE:
- **Braid termination**: With high hoop strength, PET can capture a braid and prevent it from rising up.
- **Variable-stiffness shafts**: Because of its ultrathin walls, PET heat shrink tubing can add stiffness to some or all of a shaft without adding to the profile.
- **Electrical insulation**: Because of the high dielectric strength of PET, it is ideal for use in energy-generating or sensing devices.
- **Pad printing or marking**: Our custom configurations allow for pad printing or marking the tubing to avoid printing directly on a device.

CONTROLLING SHRINKAGE

Unrestricted, PET medical heat shrink tubing will shrink both radially and axially. In most cases, the best overall performance comes with minimal shrinkage (less than 15%–20%), except when the tube drawing process is used as described below, or unless you restrict axial shrinkage.

You can restrict axial shrinkage by holding the ends of the heat shrink tube during the heating process to prevent the tube from shrinking in length. This will result in a heat shrink tube with radial shrinkage up to 50% or more, depending on temperature.