



How to Use Heat Shrink Tubing

Learn how to use heat shrink tubing.

Written By: Geoff Wacker



INTRODUCTION

Use this guide to learn how to use heat shrink tubing to repair frayed sheathing on a wire or cable.

TOOLS:

- Utility Scissors (1)
- Heat Gun (1)
- Ruler (1)

PARTS:

- 2-13mm 2:1 Heat Shrink Tubing (1)

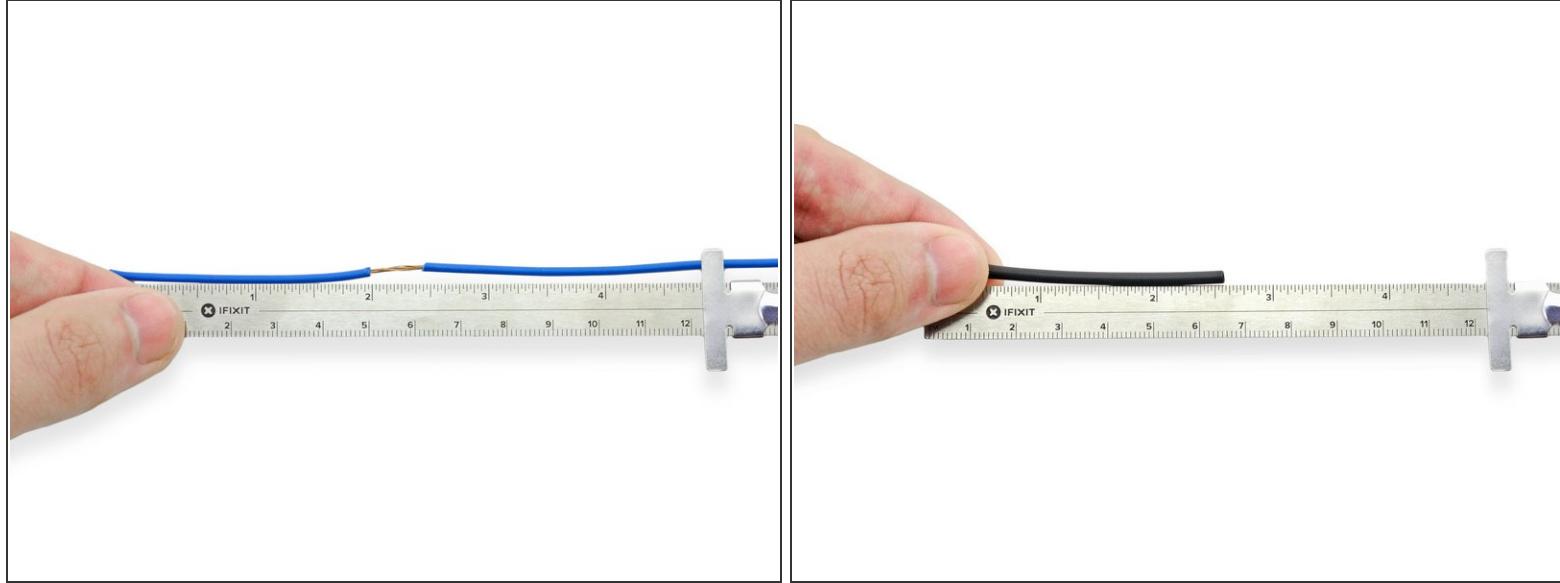
Step 1 — How to Use Heat Shrink Tubing



- Measure the diameter of the wire, and then choose a piece of heat shrink that will be large enough to slide onto the wire before heating but will still provide a snug fit once heated. The shrunken diameter should be slightly smaller than the wire's diameter to ensure a tight fit.

i Heat shrink tubing has a shrink ratio that dictates how much the tubing will shrink once heated, so it's important to choose the right ratio for the job. For example, a length of 2:1 ratio tubing with a diameter of 2 mm will shrink to a diameter of 1 mm.

Step 2



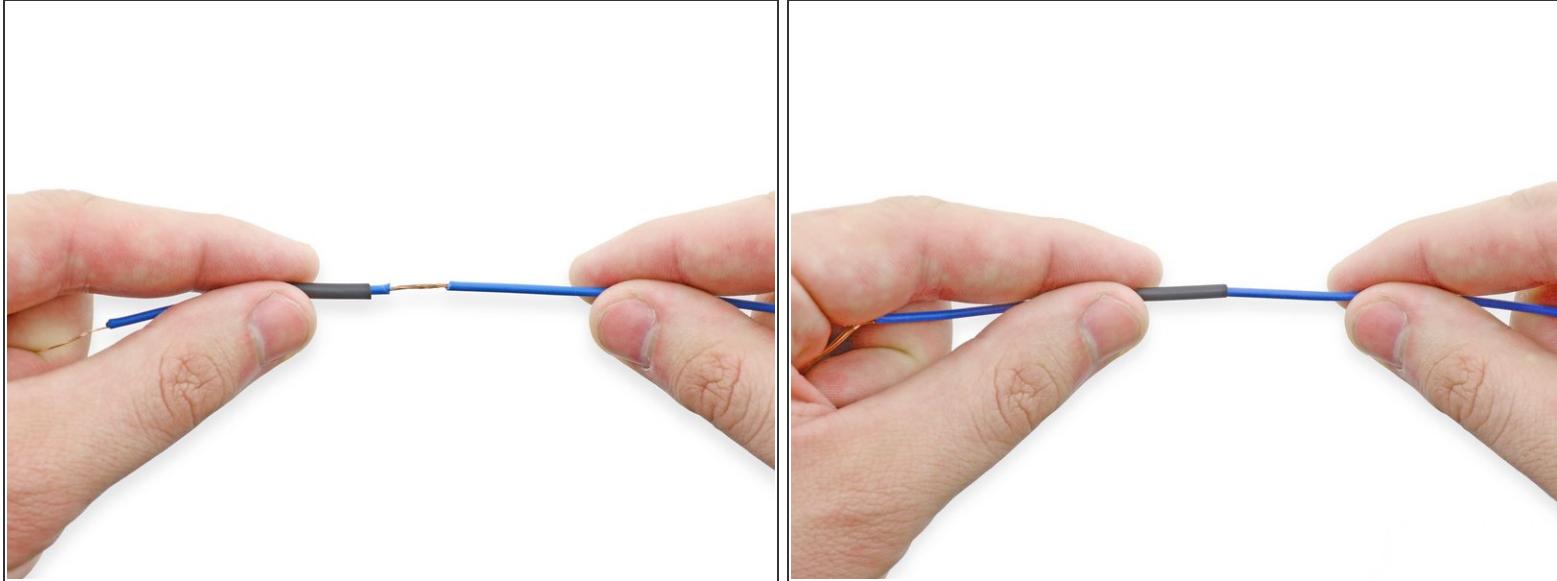
- Measure a length of heat shrink tubing that is slightly longer than the damaged section of wire.
- ⓘ Most heat shrink tubing will also shrink longitudinally (around 5-15%), so be sure to give yourself enough tubing to cover the exposed area after heating.

Step 3



- Use a pair of scissors to cut the tubing to the appropriate length.

Step 4



- Slide the tubing onto the wire so that it covers the damaged/exposed section.

Step 5



- Use a heat gun to shrink the tubing.
- ⚠ Keep the heat gun moving back and forth along the length of tubing, as staying in one place can damage the wire even further.
- Continue heating the tubing until it is tightly secured to the wire.