Here you find some basic knowledge about shrink sleeve. You will know how to work with Texin to have your ideal shrink sleeves.

Basic Questions about Shrink Sleeve:

To make an excellent shrink labels, it would be helpful for you to take a minute to think about the following questions before you start:

Q: What kind of container to be sealed or labelled, i.e. bottle, jar, can, box, etc, and what is the container looks like?  
A: In some way, the shape of container determine the materials of shrink sleeve. There are three materials for option, PVC (polyvinyl chloride), PET (Poly Ethylene Terephthalate) and OPS (oriented polystyrene). Each of these materials has its own shrink characteristics and is therefore suited to different applications respectively.

Q: Does the shrink sleeve cover the whole container/bottle/can, etc., or just a part of it?  
A: This will help decide the styles of shrink sleeve, such as Cut Shrink Label, Neck shrink seal(Tamper Evident sleeve), or Full Body Sleeve.

Q: Are you going to seal two and more products together?  
A: If so what you need is a Promotional Multi-Pack shrink sleeve.

Q: Is it possible to send in a sample of the product to be sealed, or the container/bottle, etc?  
A: It is the best way to measure the dimension and work out the size of shrink sleeve properly. We will make a shrinking test and get the container shrunk properly.

Q: Do you need a perforation for easy opening purpose on your product’s seal?  
A: We can do Vertical & Horizontal perforation, Single or Double, all depends on your custom requirements.

Q: What quantity should you order? How will you do the labeling? By man power or by automatic labeling machine?  
A: It determines the finished form of sleeves, on roll form or in pieces.

The types of print processes available from Texin:

As to meet a variety of needs for different applications, Texin offer three print processes – gravure printing, Flexo printing and litho printing.

Gravure:  
Gravure(also called Rotogravure) is a type of intaglio printing method. Technically it involves engraving the image onto an image carrier(metal cylinder). In gravure printing, the graphics for each color is engraved onto individual metal cylinders which will be installed into a rotary printing press. The vast majority of gravure presses print on rolls of plastic films, rather than sheets. Gravure printing is a proven technology and it stands for high quality printing using solvent based inks.

The advantages of gravure printing:  
High quality photographic reproduction to display every details of original designs.  
Reduced size text for extra information and special offers  
Maintain a high quality origination and consistency of printing over a long time period.

Flexo:  
Flexo(Flexography for long) is a printing process which utilizes a a photopolymer plate which transfer ink rotated around the drum. Ink is transferred onto the plate and then the film, each color unit prints in sequence. It is basically an updated version of letterpress that can be used for printing on almost any type of substrate including plastic, metallic films, cellophane, and paper. It is widely used for printing on the non-porous substrates required for various types of food packaging. The solvent based ink is also used in Flexo printing process.

The advantages of Flexo:  
Low cost, high quality reproduction  
Quick response, suitable for shorter origination process  
Ideal for promotional and labeling requirements  
Multi variant possibility
How to determine the size of shrink sleeve

Some customer may not know about how to determine the sizes of shrink sleeve for a container, before we make calculations we have to make some terms clear as below:

**Slit width** (also called **Open width**): It is the total width of a shrink sleeve before it is seamed.

**Layflat width**: It is the width of the seamed sleeve or the width of the finished product, which is less than a half of slit width.

By the quick thumbs as below, you can also easily get the correct layflat size by yourself, you are your expert here in this way.

**How to Calculate Layflats**

Layflat = (Diameter + 2 mm) × 1.57, in common sense, diameter plays a key role in determine the layflat size of shrink sleeve.

Example for a bottle on the left: 70mm diameter +2mm = 72mm × 1.57 = 113.04mm (Always round up to nearest millimeter), so the layflat of shrink sleeve label for the bottle is 113.04mm.

Based on layflat width, now we can get the design width and slit width. The design width is just double of the layflat width, which is 226.08mm for the above example. In general, the slit width is 7mm more than the design width, leaving 3mm on the right and 4mm on the left as welded areas without printing, that is 233.08mm.

Generally, the design height is 4 mm less than the cut length, leaving 2 mm on the top and the bottom of the sleeve without printing. This is a quick way to know the layflat size of shrink sleeve for your container, but we have to get the actual container to make the final size of sleeve.

**Layflats of Shrink sleeve for water bottles** (Regular sizes, only for reference purpose).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size(ml)</th>
<th>Diameter</th>
<th>Layflat Width</th>
<th>Slit Width</th>
<th>Design Width(mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>330</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>103.62</td>
<td>214.24</td>
<td>207.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>109.9</td>
<td>226.8</td>
<td>219.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>141.3</td>
<td>282.6</td>
<td>289.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FAQs-Shrink Sleeve

Artwork Guidelines for Shrink Sleeve

When designing or creating artwork files being sent for Gravure printing, please take into consideration the following issues:
* Contact information, Company name, detailed address of your company, City, State, ZIP, Phone number, etc
* Layout must be suitable for Gravure printing.
* Detailed specifications & sizes should be included in the job. Artworks must fit the template provided by Texin, showing fold lines, seam area and layout restrictions.
* Barcodes must be placed vertically.

** Please see below examples of a shrink sleeve with full information necessary.

Acceptable file formats for printing:

The printing files can be sent via E-mail or CD, customer can also provide download links to us and we will download the file by ourselves. The files must be in one of the formats as below:
* Illustrator
* Photoshop
* Freehand
* Coreldraw

When sending by E-mail, please include: High resolution images, Tiffs, Eps files, Embedded images & Fonts. We don’t accept low resolution images. If file is large please send us the link for downloading.

All text or fonts in the design should be converted into curves/paths as to avoid registration problem in different computer systems. Fonts in the file must be included if they are not turned into curves. An 8-point font is the smallest recommended.

As to ensure a high quality printing, all picture resolutions should be at least CMYK module 300 dpi at 1:1 size.

Color swatches:

Colors and their pantone numbers should be clearly labeled if it is necessary. Spot colors are best for matching specific colors. If possible, please list number of colors used in the job. Printing colors will be matched accordingly to CMYK and spot color to PANTONE standards.