



Tapes & Sleeves VS. Removable Insulation Covers

Choices in removable insulation for valves & flanges, engines & exhausts, and other industrial applications.



How to know which is right
for your application...



CONTENTS

Introduction.....	3
Tapes and Sleeves	4
Removable Insulation Covers	5
T Wrap.....	7
Comparison Chart.....	9
Conclusion & Contact	10

Tapes & Sleeves vs. Removable Insulation Covers

HOW TO KNOW WHICH IS RIGHT FOR YOUR APPLICATION

How can you determine which method of insulation is best for your particular application?



INTRODUCTION

When it comes to insulating your valves, flanges, engine and exhaust components, many choices are available in removable insulation - insulation blankets/covers, tapes, sleeves, etc. How can you determine which method of insulation is best for your particular application?

Each method of insulation has its advantages and disadvantages. Let's take a look at some of the most commonly used and effective options.

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TAPES AND SLEEVES

Firwin's tapes and sleeves are off-the-shelf, stocked items, and have the flexibility of being used in different scenarios. They are available in various thickness and materials – from plain braided fiberglass, to silicone coated versions (*resistant to liquids such hydraulic fluids and oils*), and silica for extreme high temperature applications (*up to 1800° / 982°C*).

For someone who needs to insulate many different parts, and needs quick access to insulation, tapes or sleeves may be the best solution.

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REMOVABLE INSULATION COVERS

For situations where the parts are somewhat larger, or thicker insulation is required, tapes and sleeves become less economical and less practical - wrapping tape around a large exhaust pipe can be quite labor intensive! This is where removable insulation covers are clearly the better option. They can be manufactured to various thicknesses, and are custom manufactured to precisely fit and easily install around a customer's valves, flanges, and engine and exhaust components.



◀ Removable insulation covers are available with various fastening systems.

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Removable covers are designed to wrap snugly around even the most complicated upstream equipment, including those with multiple penetrations for fittings and electric, steam, or glycol tracing.

REMOVABLE INSULATION COVERS

Other advantages of removable insulation covers over tapes and sleeves are sound attenuation, and the ability to remove the insulation covers to allow for maintenance & inspection, and then subsequently re-install them.



Removable insulation covers incorporate flaps, closures, and cutouts to provide easy access to ports and controls.

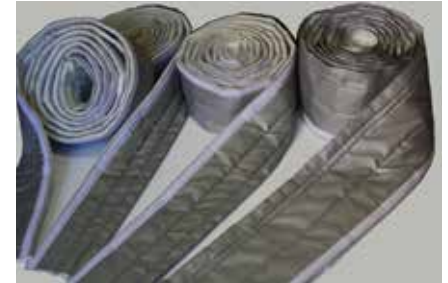
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T WRAP

Another option to consider is Firwin's 'T-Wrap' insulation system. Sort of a cross between removable insulation blankets and tapes/sleeves, T-Wrap™ is designed to provide the flexibility of tape with the added benefits of removable insulation blankets. The product features a silicone coated fiberglass outer cover, similar to Firwin's standard removable insulation blankets. Underneath is either ¼", ½", or 1" fiberglass insulation. Velcro hook and loop strips line either side of the T-Wrap™ for easy fastening and removal.



◀ The product can be applied 'straight on' over the pipe, or wrapped around the pipe in a spiral fashion.

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T WRAP




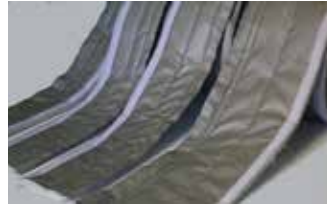
T-Wrap can be stocked by the customer in his warehouse, and provides a quick insulation solution for situations where custom removable blankets are not available or practical – for example, as a stop gap measure where permanent insulation has been cut away for maintenance, or as an emergency replacement for removable insulation while waiting for a new custom cover to arrive.

Firwin's T-Wrap™ is particularly suited for insulating:

- Electrically traced lines
- Glycol lines
- Instrumentation lines
- Small valves
- Small piping and tubing

COMPARISON CHART

The chart below gives an overview of the pros and cons of tapes, sleeving, T Wrap and insulation blankets.

	Insulation Covers / Blankets	Tapes	Sleeves	T Wrap
				
Off the Shelf	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Custom Fitted	Yes - <i>conforms to part</i>	No	No	No
Easy to Install	Yes	Yes - for small parts No - for larger parts (time consuming & uneconomical).	Yes, but parts must be accessible, with no protrusions.	Yes - for small parts.
Fluid Resistant Coating	Yes	Yes, if coated with silicone (silicone may begin to break down at high (>500°F) temperatures)	Yes, if coated with silicone (silicone may begin to break down at high (>500°F) temperatures)	Yes
Adaptable	No, designed for specific part.	Yes, can be wrapped around components of various lengths and diameters.	No, needs to match diameter of pipe.	Yes, can be wrapped around components of various lengths and diameters.
Requires dimensions, drawings, photos	Yes	No	Just diameter	Just diameter
Delivery time	Typically 2 to 3 weeks	Next day if in stock, 2 days if not in stock.	Next day if in stock, 5 to 8 days if not in stock.	Next day if in stock, 5 to 8 days if not in stock.
Removable / Reusable	Yes	No	Yes, but may require part disassembly to remove.	Yes
Available in various thicknesses	Yes (standard thickness are 1/2", 1", and 2", but blanket can be designed at other thicknesses if required).	Yes - 1/16", 1/8", 1/2"	No (1/8" only)	Yes - 1/4", 1/2", 1"
Sound attenuation	Yes	No	No	No
High temperature applications	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

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CONCLUSION

So what insulation is right for your application? Brett Herman, Firwin's vice president of sales and customer service, sums it up as follows:

"It really depends on the application, and what the customer is trying to achieve. Tapes & sleeves, and to a certain extent T Wrap, are more of a band-aid solution", said Brett. "Like band-aids, they are great to have in your cupboard, and good if you need a quick fix. But for more complex situations, removable insulation covers, designed for the customer's specific application, are the recommended product."

"We find that if the customer contacts us to discuss their particular situation, we can then recommend the most viable option, taking into account the client's goals, time frame, and resources", concludes Brett.

CONTACT US

Firwin Corp is one of North America's leading manufacturers of removable insulation products for both industrial and engine applications. For more information, contact us at:

Toll free: 1-877-FIRWIN7 (347 9467)

Canada West **Toll Free:** 1-877-784-9784
Tel: 780-800-6925
Fax: 1-800-462-9080

Canada East **Toll Free:** 1-877-347-9467
Tel: 416-745-9389
Fax: 416-745-0782

United States **Toll Free:** 1-877-347-9467
Tel: 914-307-9014
Fax: 914-219-3199

www.firwinthermowrap.com - oil & gas, petrochemical, and other industrial applications.

Email: info@firwinthermowrap.com

www.firwin.com - power generation and engine-powered equipment applications.

Email: firwin@firwin.com