

## Stretch Wrap

This is a cheap and versatile material that can be used in a variety of ways; to enclose spaces, to fill spaces and to create large sheets when built up in layers. Stretch wrap is visually arresting when reflecting coloured lights and has a translucent, see-through quality that encourages the exploration of its surface, as well as whatever it conceals inside. Combined with white piping, it can create stand-alone structures in many different forms.

Ways to use stretch wrap:

### Creating sets

- Hung from the walls in large, layered sheets, stretch wrap can totally transform the environment, turning it into a dripping cave, or an Emerald City (utilising lighting).
- Layered onto the floor, it becomes the ocean bed, the surface of the sea or a frozen wasteland.
- Hung vertically in the space it can create corridors and hiding places.

### Structures

- Stretched over a frame of white piping, stretch wrap can be used to create icebergs, globes, see-through buildings, tunnels, domes and orbs.
- The translucent quality encourages people to look or step inside and explore the interior.
- Its texture invites touch, running hands and fingers over its ethereal, shining surface.
- Placing lights inside adds another dimension to the structure.

### Puppets

- Once again, its versatility is endless. Make a simple frame of the shape you require from pipe or withies, then stretch the plastic over and around.
- Build up layers that will reflect light but retain the see-through quality that makes it unique.

### Props

- Layering this material over a simple oval/circular/triangular frame creates a textured flat surface that can be used for a variety of purposes.
- When made wet with a water-sprayer, coloured gel shapes will stick to it easily.
- It could be used as the surface of a pool of water or magic mirror.
- Smaller versions of the above would create surfaces that can be enjoyed on laps or hanging around the space.

### Links

Puppet (Prop)

Underwater (Activity)

Workshops -Frozen Forest, Monument, Excession, Orca free

### Videos

Bob Screen 1,2 and 3

Blue Wrap cones

Tundra Epic cloths

### **'How to' Tips:**

Large sheets of stretch wrap are incredibly useful resources that can be used to quickly dress a space to give the impression of ice, water, marble and even internal body cavities. The best way of fabricating large sheets is to secure two vertical poles half the distance apart from the final length of sheet you require, 2m apart to give a 4m sheet for example. You will need to secure the bottom of the poles as well as the top as there will be a considerable tension on them. Run the stretch wrap round and round the poles to build up layers. Experiment with different techniques to give different effects; starting at the bottom and working methodically up to the top, then back down again will give a thick, consistent sheet. Working more randomly will give a more varied texture with thinner areas of only one layer thick that are less robust but fully transparent. Strands/veins of different coloured wrap can be included to add visual interest and reinforce the function of the sheet, for example by including red or green to use in 'body' or 'cave' environments.

When you have wrapped the wrap, cut it vertically and lay down on the floor. At this point it will still be quite 'sticky' and you can join sheets together to secure them, or add in bits to make repairs. When it is first used the sheets have a wonderful crackly sound that gradually disappears as it becomes more compressed.

To create structures like icebergs, large rocks and giant balls and cones, you can use 3m lengths of 21.5mm white overflow pipes, which are easy to cut and for which there are a large range of reasonably cheap connectors. When you have built the structure, start wrapping it with one person inside and one outside. Running the wrap across the enclosed space internally gives increased solidity to the structure and adds intrigue and a three dimensional quality to the finished work. It is always good to leave entrances and windows to allow for exploration, which can be either built into the structure using the pipes, or simple cut in once the wrap is in place. Holes in large globes allow them to be placed over people in wheelchairs.

When stretched over a hoop of plastic or bound withies and sprayed with water, stretch wrap forms a surface that theatrical lighting gels will stick to. By cutting a variety of different coloured gels into different shapes, a beautiful mosaic can be built up. If this is lit from the opposite side it becomes a fantastically engaging activity for many people.