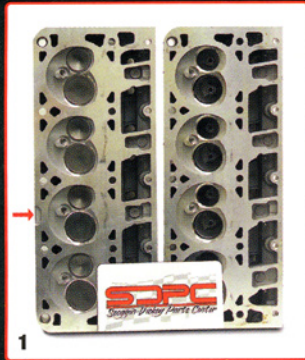


TECH TIP

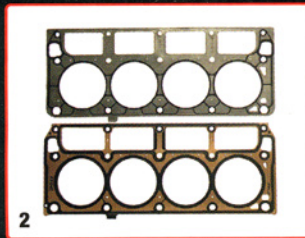
Cylinder Head & Head Gasket Information



1

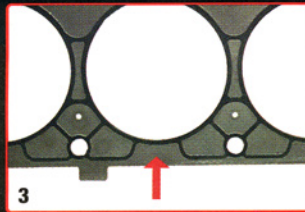
There has been a lot questions concerning head gasket interchangeability, cylinder heads, leaks, and the availability of head gaskets.

1. The first picture is looking at the deck surface of the 1997-1998 LS1 cylinder head (#853 casting) and a 2001-03 6.0L head (#317 casting). If you will notice, the red arrow indicates the recessed area of the casting that is located on the deck surface of the 1997-1998 cylinder heads. This recess would be located directly below the #3 and the #6 cylinder bore when the heads are installed on the engine. To the best of our knowledge, all the 97-98 heads have this recess and it is possible some 99's may have had the 853 casting with this recess. The 1999-03 LS1's have casting number 241 and the deck surface is identical to the 6.0L in the photograph - no recess on the deck.



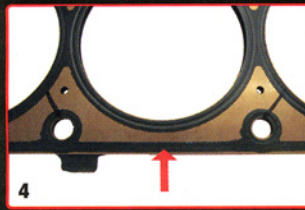
2

2. The second picture shows the two head gaskets for the 1997-01 and the 2002-03 LS1 and LS6. The 97-01 gasket is a composition style with Teflon sealing that actually has a driver's and passenger's side, two distinct part numbers. These gaskets have a different Teflon imprint on the block and cylinder head sides! This gasket has a compressed thickness of approximately 0.056".



3

The 02-03 gasket is a steel shim design that also has Teflon sealing material added to the surface. This gasket has a compressed thickness of approximately 0.060". These gaskets are identical on both sides of the gasket, therefore one part number fits both the passenger and driver's side. The Teflon imprint is identical on both sides!



4

3. If you will notice as indicated by the red arrow on the steel shim head gasket, that the Teflon imprint is located directly in the contact path of the recess that is positioned on the 1997-98 LS1 cylinder heads. This Teflon imprint makes-up approximately 0.005" to 0.006" of the compressed thickness of the gasket. When you use this gasket on the 97-98 cylinder head with the recess, there is nothing to seal the Teflon imprint in this area (as shown in 4). Water can leak from the adjacent small water passages located just above the head bolt holes on this cylinder.

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