



# Is There A Difference Between Gaskets & Seals?

## Gaskets vs. Seals

The terms “gaskets” and “seals” are often used interchangeably. The fundamental difference is that a gasket is a physical piece that goes between two flanges to create a seal at a joining point between two components. A gasket is a seal.

“Seals” is a category that encompasses many types of seals.

In addition to gaskets, there are rotary seals, O-ring seals, liquid sealants, mechanical seals, shaft seals, valve stem seals, and packings, just to name a few.

Generally, seals require more machining for the sealing surfaces, and a controlled size or quantity of seal material to make it up. They are typically “engineered” as a solution and designed up front.

“Seals” are also terms noted for non-gasket applications, such as rotary shaft seals. These are a dynamic joint and not something that a flat flange gasket is able to seal.

**Gaskets generally function with two flat flanges and the gasket material and construction can sometimes be chosen later in the design stages.** Various material constructions are available and must be selected to correlate with the available flanges and parameters.

Now You Know -

**A gasket is a seal, but a seal isn't necessarily a gasket.**

Hydraulic Pump Gasket Turbocharger Gasket  
Heat Exchanger Gasket Intake Gasket Oil Pan Gasket Exhaust Gasket  
Sealing Washer DPF Gasket  
Valve Stem Seal **MJ GASKET** EGR Gasket  
Exhaust Gas Oil Cooler Gasket Fuel Pump Gasket  
Recirculation Gasket Rear Cover Gasket **Cylinder Head Gasket**  
Air Compressor Gasket Injector Seal Valve Cover Gasket  
Front Cover Gasket **Custom Gasket** Diesel Particulate Filter Gasket