

## Fel-Pro 61251

# FEL-PRO 61251 Exhaust Pipe Gasket: Installation and Maintenance Manual

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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This manual provides essential information for the proper installation, function, and maintenance of the FEL-PRO 61251 Exhaust Pipe Gasket. Designed for specific automotive applications, this gasket ensures a reliable seal in the exhaust system, preventing leaks and maintaining optimal engine performance. Adherence to these instructions will contribute to the longevity and effectiveness of the gasket.

## 2. SAFETY INFORMATION

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Always prioritize safety when working on automotive systems. Failure to follow safety precautions can result in injury or damage to the vehicle.

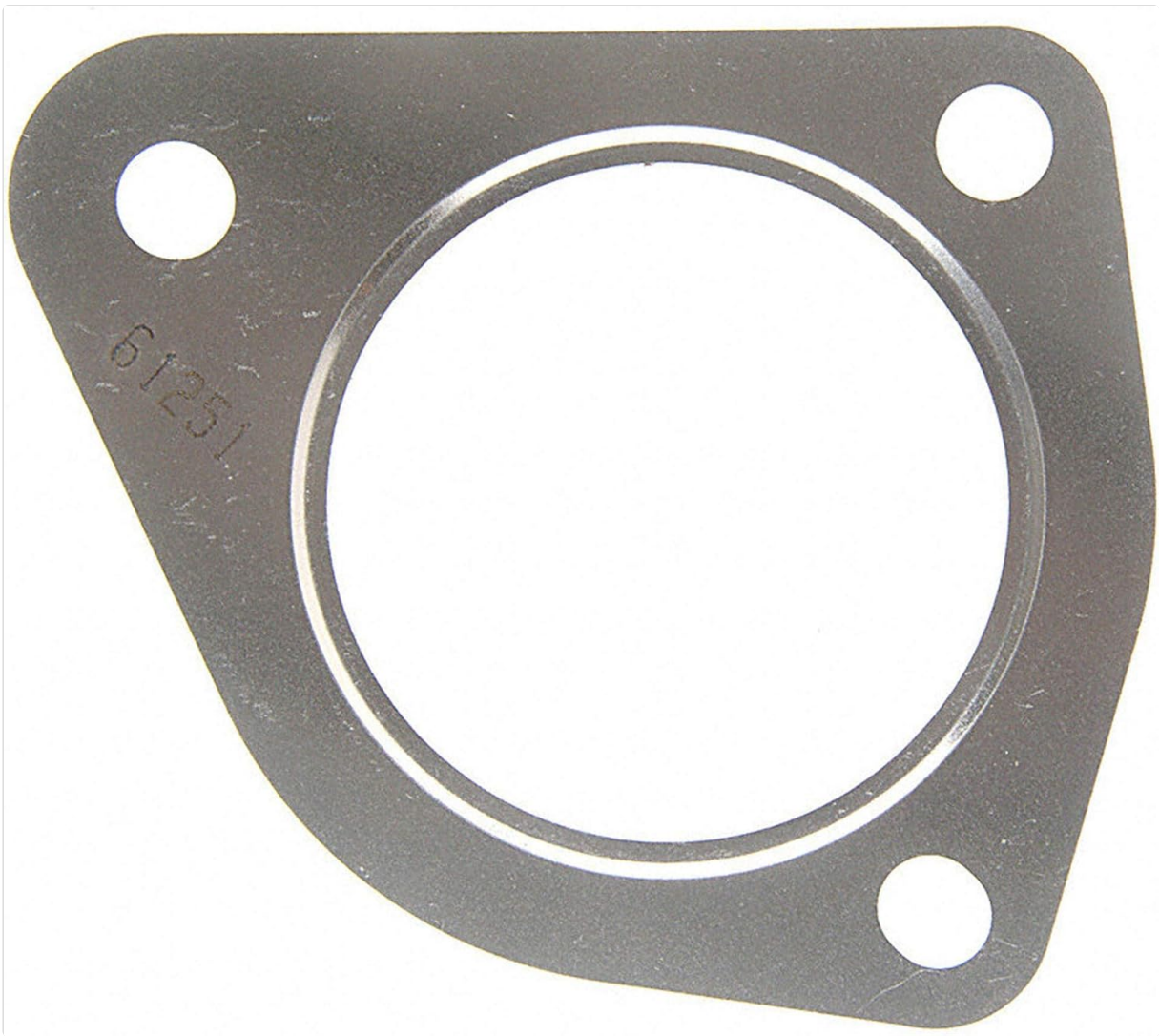
- Ensure the vehicle is securely supported on jack stands or a lift before working underneath.
- Allow the exhaust system to cool completely before beginning any work to prevent burns.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety glasses and gloves.
- Work in a well-ventilated area to avoid exposure to exhaust fumes.
- Refer to your vehicle's service manual for specific torque specifications and additional safety guidelines.

## 3. COMPONENTS

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The FEL-PRO 61251 Exhaust Pipe Gasket package typically contains:

- One (1) FEL-PRO 61251 Exhaust Pipe Gasket.



**Figure 1:** The FEL-PRO 61251 Exhaust Pipe Gasket. This image displays the metallic gasket with a central circular opening and three bolt holes, designed for sealing exhaust pipe connections.

## 4. INSTALLATION

Proper installation is crucial for the gasket's performance. The following steps provide a general guide; always consult your vehicle's specific service manual for detailed instructions.

1. **Preparation:** Ensure the exhaust system is cool. Disconnect the vehicle's battery if necessary.
2. **Access:** Locate the exhaust pipe connection where the gasket needs to be replaced. This typically involves removing bolts or clamps.
3. **Remove Old Gasket:** Carefully remove the old, worn, or damaged gasket. Clean both mating surfaces thoroughly to remove any old gasket material, rust, or carbon deposits. Use a wire brush or scraper if needed, ensuring surfaces are smooth and flat.
4. **Position New Gasket:** Place the new FEL-PRO 61251 gasket onto one of the exhaust pipe flanges, aligning the bolt holes. Ensure it sits flush against the surface.
5. **Reassemble:** Reconnect the exhaust pipes, inserting the bolts through the aligned holes. Hand-tighten the nuts.
6. **Torque:** Using a torque wrench, tighten the bolts to the manufacturer's specified torque settings. Tighten in a crisscross or star pattern to ensure even pressure and prevent warping of the flanges.
7. **Final Check:** Verify that all connections are secure and the gasket is properly seated.

## 5. FUNCTION

The FEL-PRO 61251 Exhaust Pipe Gasket is designed to create a tight, leak-free seal between two sections of the exhaust pipe. This prevents exhaust gases from escaping prematurely, which can lead to reduced engine efficiency, increased emissions, and undesirable noise. The application-specific materials and precise engineering ensure durability and performance under the high temperatures and vibrations of the exhaust system.

## 6. MAINTENANCE

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Exhaust gaskets are generally maintenance-free components once properly installed. However, periodic inspection of the exhaust system can help identify potential issues early.

- **Visual Inspection:** During routine vehicle maintenance, visually inspect the exhaust pipe connections for any signs of soot, rust, or damage around the gasket area, which may indicate a leak.
- **Auditory Check:** Listen for any unusual hissing or puffing sounds from the exhaust system, especially when the engine is cold, as this can be a sign of an exhaust leak.
- **Replacement:** Gaskets are typically replaced when exhaust components are disassembled for repair or replacement. If a leak is detected, the gasket should be replaced immediately.

## 7. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If issues arise after gasket installation, consider the following common problems and solutions:

- **Exhaust Leak (Hissing/Puffing Noise):**
  - **Cause:** Improper installation, damaged gasket, uneven torque, or warped flanges.
  - **Solution:** Re-check bolt torque. If the leak persists, disassemble, inspect the gasket for damage, ensure mating surfaces are clean and flat, and reinstall with a new gasket if necessary.
- **Vibration/Rattling:**
  - **Cause:** Loose exhaust components, or the gasket not fully sealing.
  - **Solution:** Inspect all exhaust hangers and connections. Ensure the gasket is properly seated and bolts are torqued to specification.

## 8. SPECIFICATIONS

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- **Brand:** Fel-Pro
- **Model Number:** 61251
- **Shape:** Flange
- **Item Weight:** Approximately 1.06 ounces
- **UPC:** 614046739307
- **Application:** Exhaust Pipe Connector Gasket

## 9. WARRANTY INFORMATION

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Specific warranty details for the FEL-PRO 61251 Exhaust Pipe Gasket are typically provided by the manufacturer at the time of purchase. Please refer to the packaging or the official Fel-Pro website for the most current and comprehensive warranty policy.

## 10. SUPPORT

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For technical assistance, specific application questions, or further support regarding the FEL-PRO 61251 Exhaust Pipe Gasket, please contact Fel-Pro customer service directly or consult a certified automotive professional.