

Fel-Pro 35963

FEL-PRO 35963 Thermostat Gasket User Manual

Brand: Fel-Pro | Model: 35963

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the proper installation and maintenance of the FEL-PRO 35963 Thermostat Gasket. Fel-Pro gaskets are engineered to provide 100% vehicle sealing, utilizing application-specific materials to ensure optimal performance and durability.



Image: The FEL-PRO 35963 Thermostat Gasket, an O-ring designed for sealing the thermostat housing.

Key Features:

- Multi-Purpose O-Ring for Mini Cooper applications.
- Designed to meet or exceed all original equipment specifications.
- Validated for precise fit, form, and function.
- Engineered and manufactured specifically for the repair environment.

COMPATIBILITY AND PRE-INSTALLATION

Before proceeding with installation, it is crucial to verify that the FEL-PRO 35963 gasket is the correct part for your vehicle. This gasket is compatible with various Mini Cooper models:

- 2011-2016 Mini Cooper Countryman
- 2011-2012 Mini Cooper Countryman
- 2013-2016 Mini Cooper Countryman
- 2007-2010 Mini Cooper

- 2011-2012 Mini Cooper
- 2013-2015 Mini Cooper
- 2013-2016 Mini Cooper Paceman

To ensure compatibility, always research and confirm the part fitment for your specific vehicle. Provide all vehicle information, including year, make, model, engine, and trim, and check any qualifier notes provided by the manufacturer.



Image: A technician holding a gasket, illustrating the importance of proper part selection and handling during automotive repair.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Proper installation of the thermostat gasket is critical for preventing coolant leaks and ensuring the efficient operation of the engine's cooling system. While specific steps may vary by vehicle model, the general procedure involves:

1. **Safety First:** Ensure the engine is cool and the vehicle is safely supported. Disconnect the battery if necessary.
2. **Drain Coolant:** Partially drain the engine coolant to a level below the thermostat housing.
3. **Locate Thermostat Housing:** Identify the thermostat housing, typically located at the engine end of the upper radiator hose.
4. **Remove Housing Bolts:** Carefully unbolt and remove the thermostat housing. Be prepared for residual coolant to spill.
5. **Remove Old Gasket and Thermostat:** Extract the old gasket and thermostat. Inspect the thermostat for proper function if it is being reused.
6. **Clean Mating Surfaces:** Thoroughly clean both the engine block and thermostat housing mating surfaces. Remove all traces of old gasket material, corrosion, and debris. A clean surface is essential for a proper seal.
7. **Install New Gasket:** Place the new FEL-PRO 35963 gasket onto the thermostat or into the housing groove. Ensure it is seated correctly and not twisted.
8. **Reinstall Thermostat and Housing:** Insert the thermostat (if removed) and carefully position the housing back onto the engine.
9. **Tighten Bolts:** Reinstall the housing bolts and tighten them evenly to the manufacturer's specified torque. Overtightening can damage the gasket or housing.
10. **Refill Coolant:** Refill the cooling system with the appropriate coolant mixture.
11. **Bleed Air:** Bleed any trapped air from the cooling system according to your vehicle's service manual.
12. **Check for Leaks:** Start the engine and allow it to reach operating temperature. Carefully inspect for any coolant leaks around the thermostat housing.



Image: A diagram illustrating various engine gaskets, emphasizing the precision required for proper sealing in complex engine systems.

OPERATING AND FUNCTION

The FEL-PRO 35963 Thermostat Gasket plays a critical role in the engine's cooling system by providing a leak-proof seal between the thermostat housing and the engine block. This seal ensures that coolant flows

only through the intended passages, allowing the thermostat to accurately regulate engine temperature. A properly sealed thermostat housing prevents coolant loss, maintains optimal engine operating temperature, and contributes to overall engine efficiency and longevity.

MAINTENANCE

Thermostat gaskets are generally maintenance-free components once properly installed. However, regular inspection of the cooling system can help identify potential issues before they become severe:

- **Visual Inspection:** Periodically check the area around the thermostat housing for any signs of coolant leaks, such as drips, stains, or residue.
- **Coolant Level:** Monitor your coolant reservoir level regularly. A consistently low coolant level without an obvious external leak might indicate an internal leak or a very slow external leak from a seal.
- **Cooling System Health:** Ensure your cooling system is properly maintained, including regular coolant flushes and checks of hoses and clamps. This helps prevent conditions that could stress gasket seals.



Image: A diagram showing various intake manifold gaskets, highlighting the diversity of gasket types and their specific sealing functions within an engine.

TROUBLESHOOTING

The primary issue associated with a thermostat gasket is a coolant leak. If you observe any of the following, it may indicate a problem with the gasket seal:

- **Visible Coolant Leaks:** Puddles or drips of coolant under the vehicle, especially near the front of the engine.
- **Sweet Smell:** The distinct sweet odor of ethylene glycol (coolant) inside or outside the vehicle.
- **Overheating:** While less common for a gasket leak alone, significant coolant loss can lead to engine overheating.
- **Low Coolant Level:** Frequent need to top off the coolant reservoir.

If a leak is detected, it is recommended to replace the gasket immediately. Attempting to repair a leaking gasket with sealants is generally not effective for long-term solutions. Ensure the mating surfaces are perfectly clean before installing a new gasket to prevent recurrence.

SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Value
Brand	Fel-Pro
Model	THERMOSTAT GSKT
Item Model Number	35963
Manufacturer Part Number	35963
UPC	019826517425
Item Weight	0.32 ounces

Product Dimensions	6 x 4 x 0.18 inches
Unit Count	1.0 Count
Color	Factory
ASIN	B00NGY6IAS
Date First Available	October 22, 2014

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For specific warranty information or technical support regarding your FEL-PRO 35963 Thermostat Gasket, please refer to the official Fel-Pro website or contact their customer service directly. Fel-Pro is committed to providing high-quality sealing solutions and support for their products.

You can find more information and contact details by visiting the official Fel-Pro store:[Fel-Pro Store on Amazon](#).