

Non-Asbestos Gasket Materials

Choosing the right gasket material for the job can make the difference between a long preventive maintenance cycle or a costly repair. Non-asbestos gasket materials have come a very long way. Replacing asbestos was not an easy process, and finding the right filler to give the gasket material strength required more than one type of filler and binder.

To support our customers specifications for specific brands, and to have access to the best in each product segment we offer multiple manufacturers including: Thermoseal / Klinger, Durlon / Gasket Resources, FMI-SPA, Lamons, Teadit and Garlock. Each of these companies manufacture their own product, and make quality sheet gasket materials.

There are two key elements in non-asbestos materials. The rubber binder and the fiber that gives the material strength.

The commonly used fibers (which often are not disclosed) are: Aramid / Kevlar, Phenolic, Mineral Fibers, Inorganic fiber (also called Synthetic Fiber), Fiberglass, Carbon Fiber, Graphite Fiber.

The common elastomers used to bind the fibers into the sheet include: Nitrile (NBR), SBR, Neoprene, EPDM, Hypalon, or a blended elastomeric material such as "modified SBR" for a controlled swelling of the sheet (*great for sealing oil pan covers*). SBR swells when exposed to oils, but oils can also break down SBR alone. Adding SBR to Nitrile in a multiple elastomeric swelling material provides a touch of swelling to assist in sealing without causing the material to deteriorate from oil contact.

The multiple combinations of elastomers and fibers is the reason so many variations of gasket materials are available. Because many companies have done their own exhaustive testing on specific materials, and as a result they often have an AML (approved manufacturers list), or AVL (approved vendor list). Each of the manufacturers we work with are approved by specific end users in each market segment including: Oil companies, Aerospace, Semi-conductor manufacturers, Pulp and Paper mills, Steel Mills, Power Generation, Automotive companies etc.

