

## Is This Head Gasket Upside Down?

In most instances of gasket manufacture, head gaskets are manufactured with the bore ferrule (fire-ring) joint bridges on the underside, or block side, of the gasket.

However, on occasions, head gaskets may be manufactured so that these bridges face up, or toward the cylinder head. This is often the result of various manufacturing constraints, and in no way diminishes the effectiveness or performance of the gasket.

In essence, the joints are just keeping the bore ferrules in the right place, and this is achieved whether they face the cylinder head or block.

For "V" configuration engines where the left and right hand cylinder head gaskets are often used on both engine banks one head gasket is fitted "upside-down". A common example is the Holden 3.8L V6 (1991 – 1995). The head gasket on the right engine bank is fitted with ferrule joints toward the engine block, whereas the gasket on the left has joints facing the cylinder head.

Ferrule joint facing  
upward

