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TECHNICAL BULLETIN		
	March 2011 TB 2553	

Possible Engine Overheat On
1995-2004 Toyota 3.4L 5VZE Engines

The AERA Technical Committee offers the following information on reported engine overheating on 1995-2004 Toyota 3.4L 5VZE engines. This overheating condition has been reported shortly after cylinder head gasket replacement. The cause of overheating has been related to incorrect location of this V-6 engine's cylinder head gaskets.

The head gaskets used on this engine are unique to each cylinder bank. It is, however, possible to install either gasket on the opposite bank of which it is intended to be fit. If this is done, the engine's cooling flow will be interrupted. If that occurs, eventual engine overheating may result.

To distinguish the different gaskets, original equipment and some aftermarket gasket companies provide identification by a raised color marking on the head gasket face. The left bank head gasket is color coded with a yellow dot and the right bank side is identified with a pink dot. Still other manufacturers' gaskets may have the letter "L" for left bank, or "R" for the right bank as viewed from the flywheel end of the engine as shown in Figure 1. Finally, some manufacturers do not distinguish their gaskets and supply only an instruction sheet for the correct installation.

Figure 1, Left and Right Locations

The correct gasket installation shown in Figures 1 and 2 requires that the large open cooling hole is located on the left bank as viewed from the flywheel end of the engine. The right bank water passage is blocked off by the head gasket. It should also be noted that along with the head gasket differences, the heads are also location specific.

Figure 2. Left and Right Side Head Gaskets

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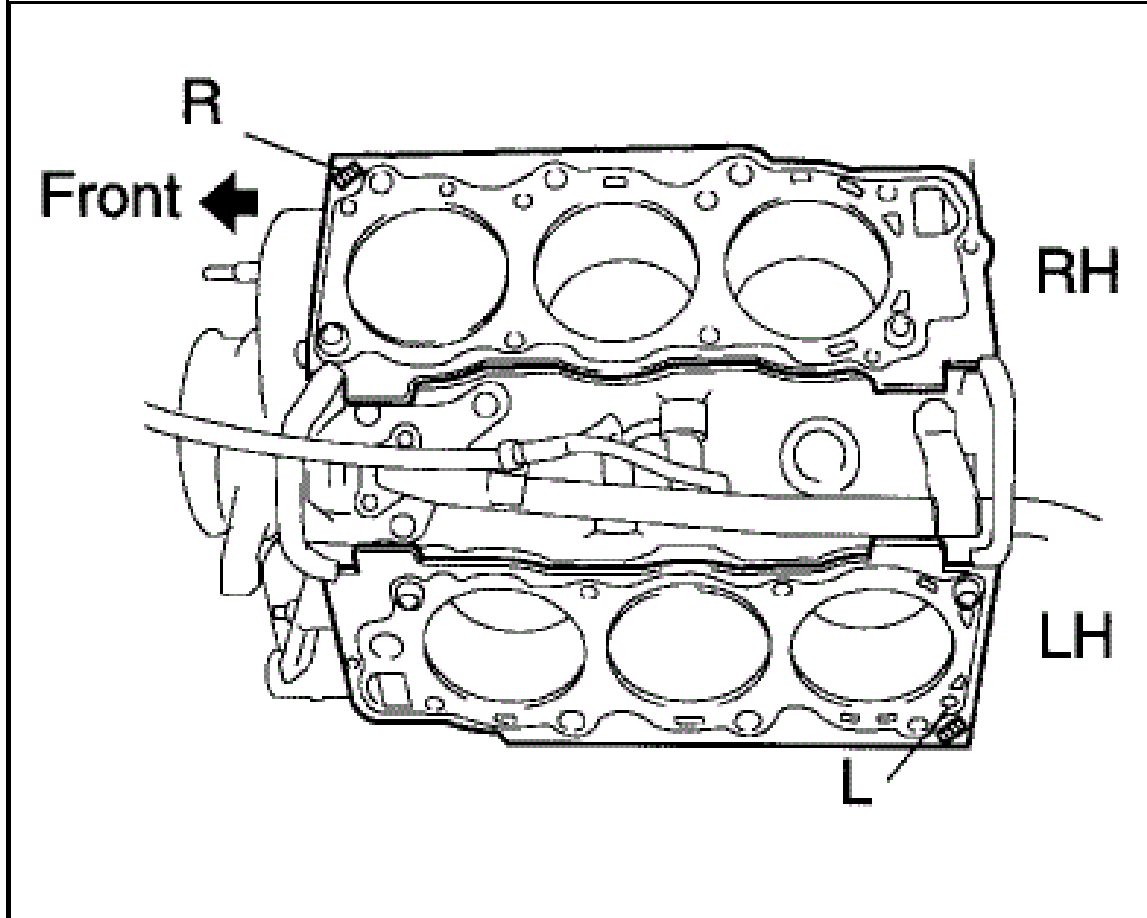
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Bulletin Diagram: FIGURE 1. LEFT & RIGHT BANK GASKET LOCATIONS - CYLINDER HEAD



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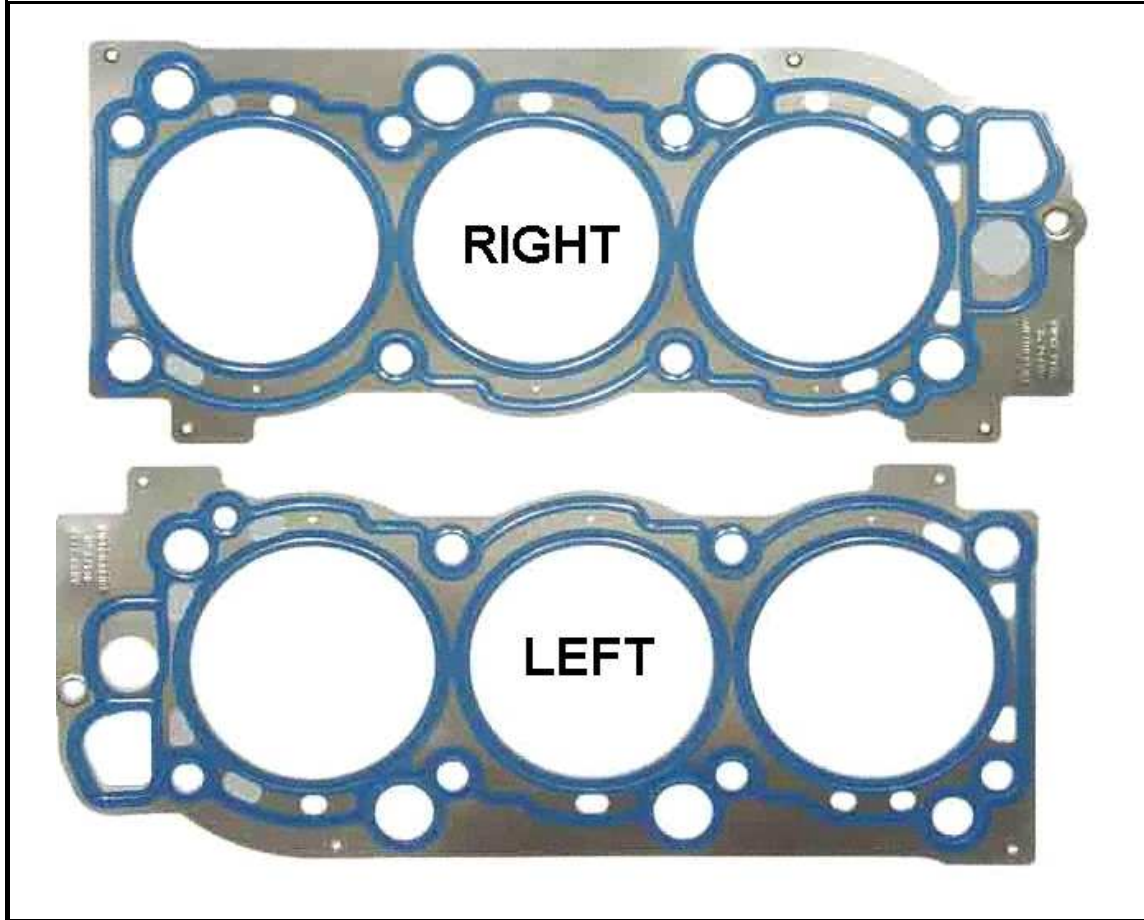
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Bulletin Diagram: FIGURE 2. CORRECT LEFT & RIGHT BANK GASKET INSTALL - CYLINDER HEAD



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