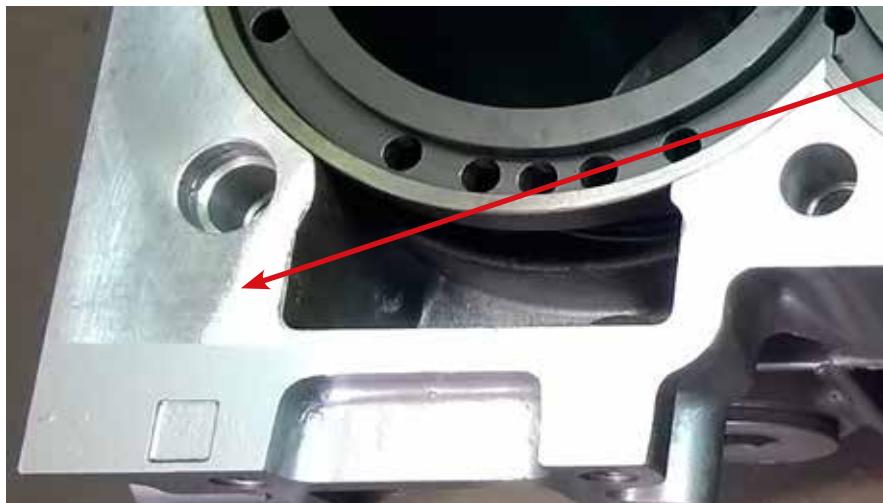


# Surface Preparation for MLS Head Gaskets.



New cylinder block showing how the surface should look for correct sealing for MLS head gaskets.

To prepare the block surface correctly

1. Use a "spray on" gasket remover to soften the old gasket.
2. Then with a new razor blade held almost parallel to the surface you can scrape off the material, making sure not to scratch the surface. Or better still, use a plastic razor blade or scraper to reduce the risk of scratching.
3. The surface can then be sanded with ultra-fine wet and dry paper on a flat sanding block to bring up a near mirror finish.
4. Clean out the threads of the bolt holes in the block.
5. Finally, clean all surfaces with brake cleaner to remove any oil residue.



Marks in the head gasket are imprints of the deep scratches in the block caused by this.



Use a plastic razor blade or scraper to reduce the risk of scratching the block.



Do not use air powered die grinders with surface preparation discs or "whizzy discs". They can easily grind away sealing surfaces, especially on aluminium cylinder blocks. They can severely damage the gasket surface which will inevitably lead to head gasket failure. See **Tech Talk Aug 2008 page 2803** for more information on why you should not use them. ▶



Fire ring surface rounded off  
with surface / whizzy discs

Also, the block surface on modern aluminium blocks tend to warp if the engine is severely overheated and will cause gasket failure if not checked and rectified prior to the head being replaced.

If the above steps are taken, the repair should be successful.



We would like to thank Geoff,  
from All Head Services,  
for sharing this practical  
information and photos  
[www.allhead.com.au](http://www.allhead.com.au)

## Tech Talk Index 2016 Update

<b>TechTalk INDEX</b>	
<b>1986 to 2016</b>	
Using this Index:	
This index is published annually and is designed to be a quick reference guide to the location of specific Tech Talk articles that have been published over the last 31 years. It lists the vehicle, body style, vehicle make and then by the type of the article.	
The index will direct you to the Tech Talk page number where the article was originally published. To find the full article, choose the page number from the index and turn to the page indicated. If there are multiple articles that are repeated more often, an additional page number is listed. To find the page number for the first article, choose the page number as "1" and then add the additional page number. For example, if the index indicates the article only exists in the Tech Talk Annual, it would be page 1.	
Some articles mentioned are still available from VACC Auto Themer. To download or to purchase contact VACC.	
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The index is now 63 pages long covering 31 years of Tech Talk publications. This means that we can no longer economically print and mail out a paper copy version.

However, the updated Tech Talk index with all of 2016's content is now available from the VACC Tech Talk web page. This free download will allow you to print a copy or view it electronically.

If you do not have access to VACC website, please email [techtalk@vacc.com.au](mailto:techtalk@vacc.com.au), and I will send you the files.



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- Best Service Station
- Best New Car Dealer
- Best Used Car Dealer
- Best Motorcycle Dealer

- Best Farm Machinery Dealer
- Best Tyre Dealer
- Best Aftermarket & Retail Business
- Best Commercial Vehicle Dealer
- Best General Member Business
- Best Commercial Vehicle Body Repairer
- Best Commercial Vehicle Manufacturer
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