



service bulletin

No. 88-6

Mercury/Mariner 20-25 HP Models Exhaust Plate Gasket 27-41475--3

Mercury Marine has determined that a possible gasket/ sealing problem exists with recent production of Exhaust Plate Gasket P/N 27-41475--3. If this gasket leaks, the engine will run "rough" because of water spray entering the exhaust ports.

The defective gasket has been used in production since the first week in September 1987. Based on this information the following corrective action is being taken.

- a. Exhaust plate gasket P/N 27-41475--3 is superseded by revised gasket 27-41475--5.
- b. Gasket Kits 27-14539A86, 27-41499A87 and 27-85168A80 contain gasket 27-41475--3. All the packages are stamped with a Julian code date. Any package with code date 244-7 (September 1, 1987) thru 039-8 (February 8, 1988) may be returned to your Regional Distribution Center for credit.
- c. Individual gaskets P/N 27-41475--3 may also be returned to your Regional Distribution Center for credit.
- d. Any powerhead assembly P/N 90885A88 and/or cylinder block assembly P/N 872-9533A7 with a code date 244-7 (September 1, 1987) thru 039-8 (February 8, 1988) requires replacement of the gasket to ensure maximum durability and performance. Refer to instructions following "e".
- e. 20 & 25 HP models with the following serial numbers require replacement of the gasket to ensure maximum durability and performance.

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|---------|------------------------|
| U.S. | 0B252884 thru 0B320964 |
| Belgium | 9513619 thru 9520984 |
| Canada | A731008 thru A735163 |

IMPORTANT: 20-25 models (within the above serial number range) that had the gasket replaced at the factory will have the motor carton identified. The letter "X" will be stamped by the serial number (two places on the carton). In addition, a white paint dot will be placed on the top of the exhaust manifold plate.

1. A letter will be sent to every registered owner in North America of 20-25 models, within the above serial number range, advising them to return their outboard to the selling dealer for warranty replacement of the gasket. A copy of the letter is on the back of this Service Bulletin.
2. Order one inner gasket P/N 27-41475--5 plus one outer exhaust cover gasket P/N 27-41499--3 for each 20-25 model (within the above serial number range) that you purchased.
3. Upon return of owner's 20-25 models and/or for all 20-25 models (within the above serial number range) you have in your inventory:
 - a. Replace the exhaust manifold gaskets following the instructions in 18/20/25 Service Manual 9043509--3.
 - b. Dab a white paint dot on the top of the exhaust manifold plate to indicate the correct gasket is installed.
 - c. Submit a warranty claim for the gaskets and 1.0 hour of labor for each outboard on which you replaced the exhaust manifold gaskets. More than one outboard may be listed on a claim, however, it is essential that all serial numbers are listed.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience this may cause you. We appreciate all dealer efforts to correct this problem and ensure boating satisfaction to our mutual customers.



Dear Mercury Outboard Owner:

It has been determined that your Mercury 20 or 25 Outboard may have a defective exhaust cover gasket. If the gasket starts to leak the engine will run "rough" at slower speeds.

This letter is your authorization to return the outboard to your dealer for replacement of the exhaust cover gasket at no charge to you. Please contact your dealer immediately to make an appointment.

We are sorry to cause you inconvenience, however, we have taken this action to assure you continued satisfaction with our product.

Thank you for your understanding

Mercury Outboard Service Department