Gaskets / Washers

A gasket is a mechanical seal which fills the space between two or more mating surfaces, generally to prevent leakage from or into the joined objects while under compression.

Gaskets allow "less-than-perfect" mating surfaces on machine parts where they can fill irregularities. Gaskets are commonly produced by cutting from sheet materials. In the past Asbestos was a common gasket material for specific applications such as high pressure steam systems, but due to the health hazards associated with it, compressed non asbestos fibres (CNAF) are now used in its place.

It is usually desirable that the gasket be made from a material that is to some degree yielding, such that it is able to deform and tightly fills the space it is designed for, including any slight irregularities. Some joints may also require an application of sealant directly to the gasket surface to function properly.

A washer is a thin plate (typically disk-shaped) with a hole that is normally used to distribute the load of a threaded fastener, such as a screw or nut. Other uses are as a spacer, spring, wear pad, preload indicating device, locking device, and to reduce vibration.

Washers are usually metal or plastic. Rubber or fiber gaskets used to stop the flow of water are sometimes referred to colloquially as washers; but, while they may look similar, washers and gaskets are usually designed for different functions. They are made differently, and are very reasonably priced considering the technical merits of this product.

Figure 1.1 Some of the washers availale in our range

> We have the capability to **supply any type** of **washer or gasket** you require, and at very competitive prices.