

Brew group gasket changing on the Rancilio home espresso machine

The brew group on an espresso machine is an unusually harsh environment. The temperature is constantly changing back and forth between room temperature, brew temperature and steam temperature. This temperature change mixed in with the high humidity and the acidic coffee raise havoc on the rubber group gasket. They get hard and brittle and eventually lose their ability to seal against the filter basket. Thus causing water to leak around the portafilter while brewing. Changing these gaskets will take the beginner around 10 minutes and is not something to be afraid of. If you have any trouble during the process or have any questions at all please feel free to call.

Below are two sets of instructions to replace the brew group gasket for the following machines:
Rancilio: Silvia, Audrey, Nancy and S24

Rancilio

Please read the entire instructions before you start.

1. Unplug the machine
2. Remove the reservoir, drip tray and drip pan and lay it on its back.
3. Use a **short wide** blade screwdriver to remove the shower screen. Under the shower screen is a "water jet breaker" that will come out with the shower screen be careful not to lose it. If you use a small bladed screwdriver it might strip the screw.
4. Find a couple of screws that you might have lying around. They do not have to be any special size. Screw them into the old gasket. We have found that a sheet metal screw with a 5/16" or 1/4" six sided head and a ratchet works perfectly. Make sure that they are across from each other. Do not go completely through the gasket just screw them in far enough to get a good grip. You can judge this by looking at the new gasket you are going to install. The gasket depth is about 5/16".
5. Use pliers to pull on the screws and work the old gasket out. Pull one side and then the other until it comes out.
6. This is a good opportunity to clean the shower screen and brew group. The cleaner they are, the better the coffee. It does make a difference.
7. Clean and dry the slot in the machine that the gasket fits into.
8. Slide a new gasket into place.
9. Install water jet breaker and shower screen.
10. Tip the unit back up and install the drip pan, drip tray and water reservoir.
11. Fill the reservoir and plug the machine in and you are ready to go.