

A042 Fuel Filter Replacement

By Chuck Watford

The engine fuel filter is one of those things that's almost leak-proof.....if done right! I've seen them with silicone gasket maker gobbled on and running down the sides and still leaking gas, but all that was wrong was the gasket was installed on the wrong side of the filter element!



Unscrew the bail nut and remove the bowl. Twist the old filter off the base, the rubber gasket should come with it.



Here are the parts: the base and bail, the filter, the rubber gasket and the bowl.



I need to stop right here and point out that there are two types of filters.

The original filter is the spun fiber element and looks like this.



This filter uses two rubber seals.



If you find this type filter on your mule and plan to replace it with the WIX 33034 filter, you must make sure that the smaller rubber seal is not stuck into the nub on the filter base or it will block the flow on the Wix filter.



Make sure the base is clean, any silicone is scraped off and the rubber gasket is removed. The filter will fit onto the "nub" on the base.



Twist the filter onto the "nub", paper-end in. It may take a little force to make the filter slip onto the "nub". Filter is a WIX 33034.



Now slip the rubber gasket over the filter and into the base. The gasket helps hold the filter into the base. On the mule, you can slip the gasket over the filter and then use the bowl to lift it into position on the base.



Install the bowl and the bail and tighten the bail nut. Hand-tight is enough, don't use pliers!

By the way, make sure the rubber grommet is in the oil filler neck support where the fuel line goes through it.



If you are finding lots of crap in your engine fuel filter, chances are, the in-tank filter is full of crap, too, and needs to be serviced. This will require that the tank be removed from the mule, and this opens up a whole 'nuther can of worms! (twisted-off screws on the pickup assembly, etc.)