



Stop Buying the Wrong Gasket: The Hidden Cost of "Commercial Grade" Rubber

A gasket is not a commodity, it is a critical safety and performance barrier. Its material selection dictates its lifespan, durability, and ability to resist the operating environment (temperature, pressure, acids, or oil). Choosing the low-cost option doesn't save you money; it guarantees system failure, costly repairs, and severe safety risks.

We are seeing a dangerous trend where "Commercial Grade" rubber is being selected by default. This is the hidden trap: these materials are heavily diluted, containing minimal amounts (often under 7.5% Neoprene/Nitrile/EPDM) of the required polymer blended with cheap fillers along with recycled tyres (NR/SBR). This dilution negates the performance benefits of the base polymer.

Consider oil resistance. If your application handles most oil's, you require Nitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR). A commercial "Nitrile" blend offers little-to-no oil resistance. It will rapidly swell, soften, and degrade, causing catastrophic seal failure.

We would never recommend a commercial grade by default, especially if you are unsure on the application. The starting point should be a high-quality polymer option, not commercial', and supply what the client expects (a Nitrile rubber sheet) such as Metroseal SM189-SM193 BS2751 Series. [Please click here for details of the BS2751 range.](#)

Our ISO 17025:2005 rubber testing laboratory is at your disposal to test, develop, and recommend the best polymer for the intended application.

If you have any concerns, questions or would like to enquire about any of our products, please contact us on 01702 548800 or email sales@metroseal.co.uk or complete our [enquiry form](#).

Kind Regards

The Metroseal Team