

Does Your Hydro Flask Water Bottle Leak Air When You Sip? Version 1.1

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Living in Phoenix, Arizona, carrying water with me is essential to my health. Carrying cold water is a very nice option. So, like many of my Phoenicians, we carry around Hydro Flasks crammed full of ice. When the air temperature gets above 115°, a sip of ice water tastes *so* good.

On the downside, these bottles are expensive. The optional top that lets me sip was an additional \$10. It worked well until I decided to use vinegar to remove mineral deposits from around the mouthpiece. Then I started to suck air rather than my beloved cold water.

I had two options. The top has a “Lifetime Warranty” but I would have to send back the defective top. I pay the cost of shipping² and will be without my water bottle for a few weeks. Alternately, I could spend another \$10 plus tax to get a new top. Neither of these were attractive options.

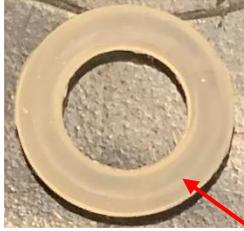
Nothing to lose taking it apart. Even if I was unable to fix the leak, I would have learned something.

It turned out to be an easy fix that only cost me a little time.

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² <https://www.hydroflask.com/warranty/>

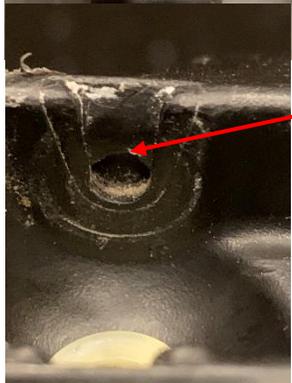
By pushing on the side of the pivoting mouthpiece, it came out. I did have to push rather hard. Refrain from using a tool to pry the mouthpiece out as that could dent the plastic and ruin the seal inside.



Under the mouthpiece was this white O-ring resting on this seat. Both of these looked fine.



After cleaning out all remnants of mineral, I reassembled the O-ring and mouthpiece. It leaked far worse than before!



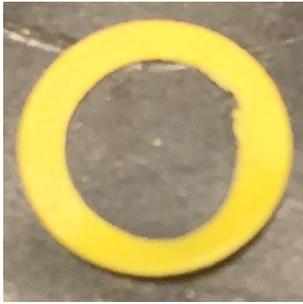
My guess is that the mouthpiece's pivot stud journals and/or the studs were worn at the top which reduced the pressure on the O-ring by the mouthpiece. This would allow air to leak in.

I figured I only needed to raise the white O-ring a tiny amount so went into my junk drawer of plastic.



There I found a scrap of sheet plastic from a file folder. This material is very useful³. And once, I actually used one to hold papers.

³ My mill's way covers are made from this plastic and they last for many years.



Using a leather punch for the outside diameter and a paper punch for the inside diameter, I cut out a spacer.



This side view shows that the spacer is around 0.01 inches thick.



I dropped in my spacer and then the original O-ring.



And finally, I snapped in the mouthpiece. All is now tight and the air leak is gone.

Anthony Nagy suggested lubricating the surfaces that are wearing. I think this is a great idea since these surfaces are away from where my drinking water flows. Thanks Anthony!

I welcome your comments and questions.

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