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

By R. G. Sparber

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 shipping 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 useful\(^3\). 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 it 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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