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BMW 3-Series 320i & 320xi (12-14), 325i, 325xi, 330i & 330xi (06) & 328i & 328xi (07-14) Haynes Online Manual

21 Airbag system components - removal and installation

Warning:

Refer to the precautions in Section 20 before carrying out the following operations.

1 Disconnect the negative battery cable (see [Chapter 5](#)) and wait two minutes before proceeding. **Warning:** *Isolate the negative battery cable to prevent accidental contact between the cable and the battery .*

Driver's side airbag

2 Two different types of driver's airbags may be installed: a Sports steering wheel airbag, or normal steering wheel airbag.

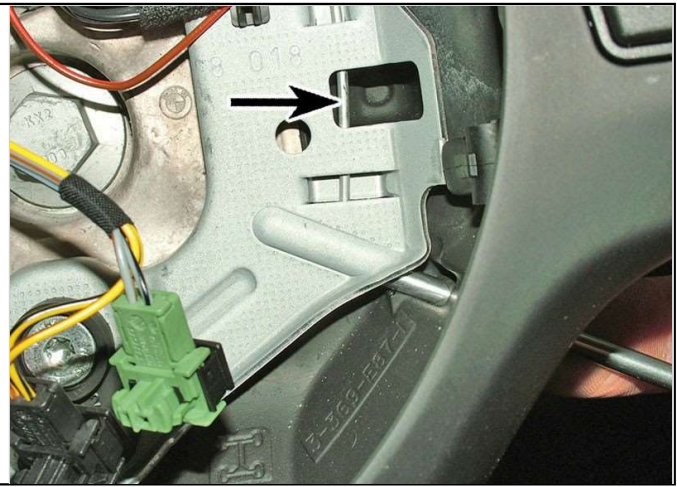
Sports steering wheel

3 To release the spring clip, with the steering wheel in the straight-ahead position, insert a T25 Torx screwdriver 0.6 inch (1.5 cm) through the hole in the front-side of the steering wheel, at 90 degrees to the steering column. Pull that side of the airbag away from the wheel (see illustrations) . Repeat this process on the other side of the wheel.

21.3a Insert a screwdriver through the hole/depression in the front of the steering wheel . . .



21.3b . . . and push the clip to release the airbag

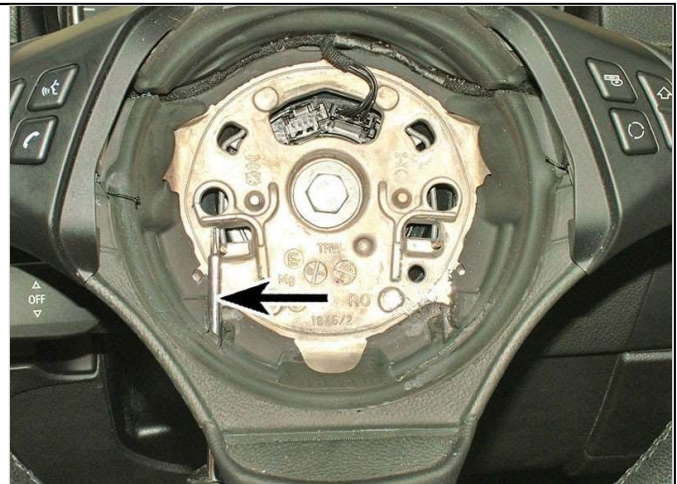


Standard steering wheel

4 To release the spring clip, with the steering wheel in the straight-ahead position, insert a T20 Torx screwdriver straight up, approximately 2 inches (5.5 cm) through the hole in the base of the steering wheel, at 90 degrees to the steering column. Pull that side of the airbag away from the wheel (see illustrations) . Repeat this process on the other side of the wheel.

21.4a Insert a Torx screwdriver through the hole in the base of the steering wheel .

. .



21.4b . . . and push the spring clip towards the center of the wheel



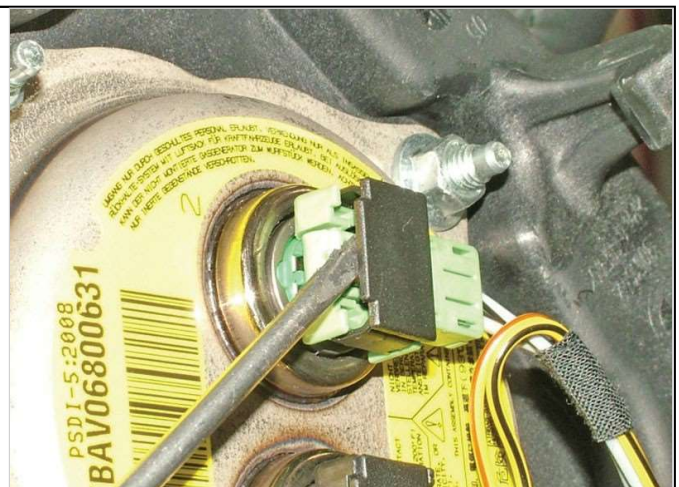
Both steering wheels

5 Disconnect the airbag electrical connector(s) (see illustrations) . Whenever handling an airbag module, always keep the airbag opening (trim side) pointed away from your body. Never place the airbag module on a bench or other surface with the airbag opening facing the surface. Always place the airbag module in a safe location with the airbag opening (trim side) facing up.

21.5a Pry down the clip and disconnect the airbag electrical connector (standard)steering wheel



21.5b Pry up the locking clip . . .



21.5c . . . and disconnect the airbag electrical connector (sports steering wheel)



6 On installation, reconnect the electrical connectors, making sure they are locked in place. Note that the connectors are color-coded to ensure correct installation. The connector plugs into the socket of the same color.

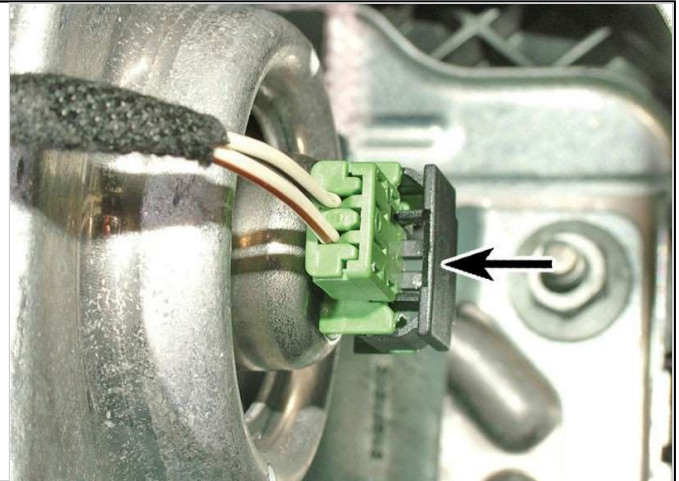
Position the airbag on the wheel and push the unit until it locks in place. Reconnect the battery negative cable.

Passenger's side airbag

7 Remove the glove box (see [Chapter 11](#)).

8 Pry up the locking catch and disconnect the airbag electrical connector(s) (see illustration) . **Note:** On models manufactured from 03/2006, there is an electrical connector at each end of the airbag.

21.8 Pry up the locking catch and disconnect the passenger's airbag electrical connector(s)



9 Remove the retaining nuts and remove the airbag (see illustration) .

21.9 Passenger's airbag retaining nut locations



10 Installation is the reverse of removal. Tighten the airbag retaining nuts to the specified torque, and reconnect the negative battery cable (see [Chapter 5](#)).

Side impact airbags

11 The side impact airbags are incorporated into the side of the front and rear seats. Removal of the units requires the seat upholstery to be removed. This is a specialized procedure, which we recommend should be

handled by a dealer or other qualified shop.

Side curtain airbags

12 Replacement of the side curtain airbags requires removal of the headliner. This is a specialized procedure, and should be handled by a dealer or other qualified shop.

Airbag control unit

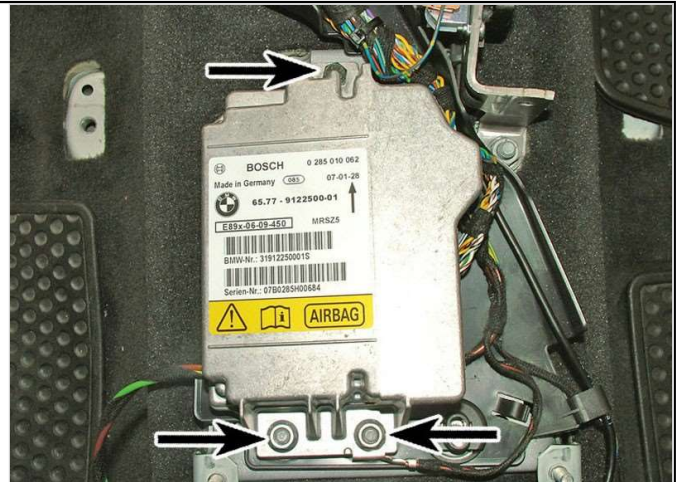
13 Remove the center console (see [Chapter 11](#)).

14 Remove the insulation cover, remove the retaining nuts and bolts, then lift the module. Note the ground strap retained by one of the mounting nuts. Disconnect the electrical connector as the unit is withdrawn (see [illustrations](#)) .

21.14a Remove the insulation cover



21.14b Remove the nuts/bolts and remove the airbag control unit



15 Installation is the reverse of removal. **Note:** The control unit must be installed with the arrow pointing towards the front of the vehicle, and the ground strap must be placed under one of the module mounting nuts. If a new control unit is installed, it must be programmed using BMW diagnostic equipment. This procedure should be handled by a dealer or other qualified shop.

Impact sensors

16 There may be two impact sensors on each side of the vehicle (one in each front door, one at the base of the B-pillars), and a sensor built into the control unit.

Door sensors

Note:

Not installed on all models.

17 Remove the door inner trim panel and sound insulation material (see [Chapter 11](#)).

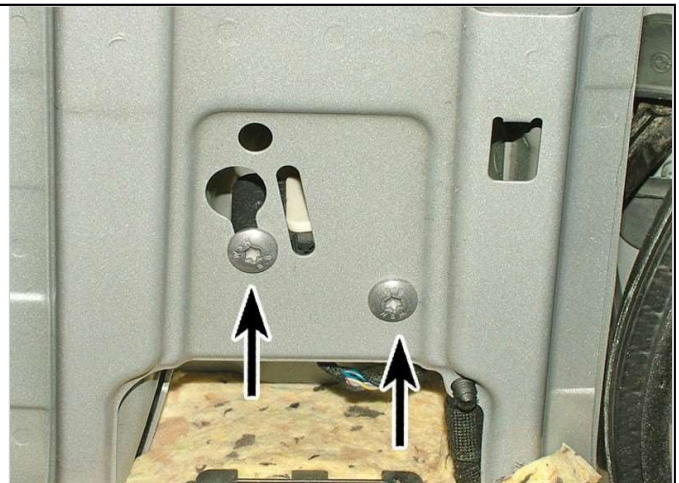
18 Remove the two retaining bolts, and remove the sensor. Disconnect the electrical connector as the sensor is withdrawn.

B-pillar sensors

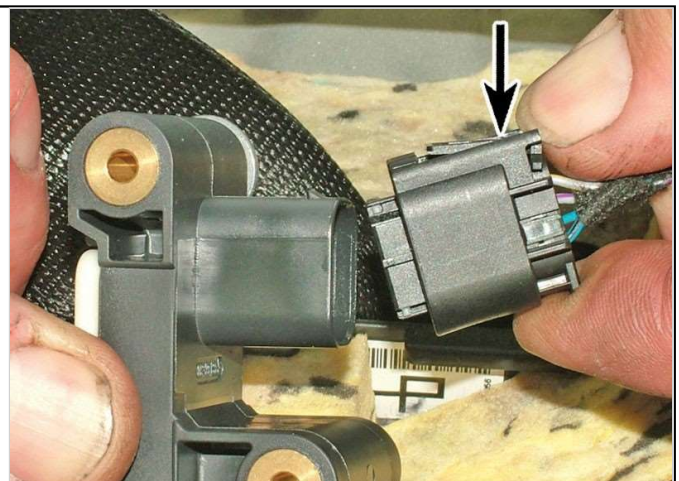
19 Remove the B-pillar trim panel (see [Chapter 11](#)).

20 Loosen the upper bolt and remove the lower bolt, then maneuver the sensor from position. Disconnect the electrical connector as the sensor is withdrawn (see illustrations) .

21.20a Loosen the upper bolt, and remove the lower bolt



21.20b Depress the clip and disconnect the sensor electrical connector



All sensors

21 Installation is the reverse of removal. Tighten the fasteners to their specified torque.

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