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

1 General information

Models with an “x” in their designation, such as 325xi, are equipped with All Wheel Drive (AWD). These vehicles have two added components - the transfer case and the front differential. The transfer case is a group of gears in a housing attached to the rear of the transmission. The transfer case splits the power from the transmission to the front differential through a front driveshaft, and a rear driveshaft delivers power to the rear axle. The AWD feature is available with either a manual transmission or an automatic transmission.

The transfer case operates both differentials full-time. Some models are equipped with Active Torque Control (ATC), a traction management function that changes the delivery of torque from the transfer case, using an electronic clutch. Depending on the situation, the system may apply one or more brake calipers if wheelspin occurs, and differential output would go the opposite wheel.

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