

**Haynes**
shows you how

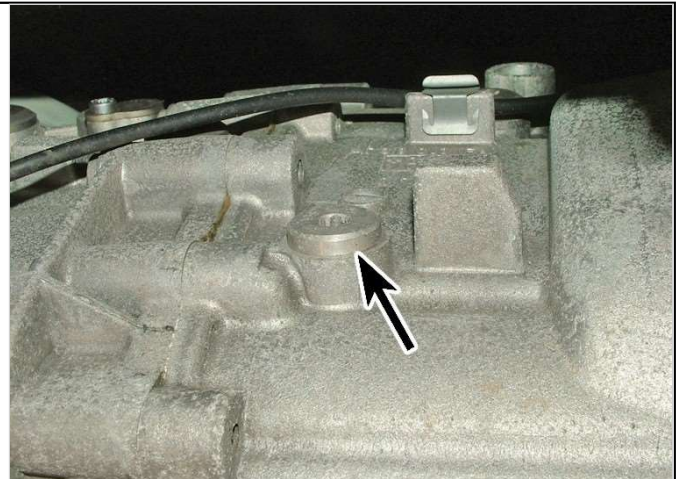
BMW 3-Series 320i & 320xi (12-14), 325i, 325xi, 330i & 330xi (06) & 328i & 328xi (07-14) Haynes Online Manual

16 Transmission and differential lubricant level check (every 15,000 miles or 12 months)

Manual transmission lubricant

1 Raise the vehicle and support it securely on jackstands. Remove the check/fill plug on the side of the transmission case (see illustration) . If the lubricant level is correct, it should be up to the lower edge of the hole.

16.1 Manual transmission check/fill plug



2 If the level is not up to the hole, use a syringe or a gear oil pump to add more. Stop filling the transmission when the lubricant begins to run out of the hole.

3 Install the plug and tighten it securely. Drive the vehicle a short distance, then check for leaks.

Automatic transmission fluid

4 The level of the automatic transmission fluid should be carefully maintained. Low fluid level can lead to slipping or loss of drive, while overfilling can cause foaming, loss of fluid and transmission damage.

5 The transmission fluid level should only be checked when the transmission is hot (between 86 and 122 degrees F). **Caution:** *If the vehicle has just been driven for a long time at high speed or in city traffic in hot weather, or if*

it has been pulling a trailer, an accurate fluid level reading cannot be obtained. Allow the fluid to cool down for about 30 minutes.

6 If the vehicle has not just been driven, park the vehicle on level ground, set the parking brake and start the engine. While the engine is idling, depress the brake pedal and move the selector lever through all the gear ranges, beginning and ending in Park.

7 There is no dipstick for checking fluid level on these vehicles. Connect a scan tool to the diagnostic connector (see [Chapter 6](#)), and set the tool to read fluid temperature. If the procedure is being performed at home, some other tool for checking the fluid temperature must be used (infrared tools are available at auto parts stores).

8 Remove the check/fill plug (see illustration), and if a slight amount of fluid comes out of the hole, the fluid level is OK. If no fluid comes out, add some new fluid with a syringe until it starts to flow out of the hole. **Note:** *On GM manufactured transmissions, the check/fill plug is located on the back of the transmission case. On ZF manufactured transmissions, the check/fill plug is located on the side of the transmission case.*

16.8 Automatic transmission check/fill plug



9 Install a new sealing ring on the check/fill plug, then install the plug and tighten it securely.

Differential lubricant

10 Raise the vehicle and support it securely on jackstands. Remove the check/fill plug on the differential case (see illustration). If the lubricant level is correct, it should be up to the lower edge of the hole.

16.10 Rear differential check/fill plug

11 If the level is not up to the hole, use a syringe or a gear oil pump to add more. Stop filling the differential when the lubricant begins to run out of the hole.

12 Install the plug and tighten it securely. Drive the vehicle a short distance, then check for leaks.

© 2024 Haynes Manuals, Inc. Contact us