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**BMW 3-Series (92-98) & Z3 (96-98) Haynes Online Manual**

## 11 Driveaxle - removal and installation

### Removal

- 1 Remove the wheel trim/hub cap (as applicable) and loosen the driveaxle retaining nut with the vehicle resting on its wheels. Also loosen the wheel bolts.
- 2 Chock the front wheels, then jack up the rear of the vehicle and support it on axle stands.
- 3 Remove the relevant rear wheel.
- 4 If the left-hand driveaxle is to be removed, remove the exhaust system tailpipe to improve access (see the relevant Part of [Chapter 4](#) ).
- 5 Loosen and remove the left- and right-hand stabilizer bar mountings and pivot the bar downwards (see [Chapter 10](#) ).
- 6 Unscrew and remove the driveaxle retaining nut.
- 7 Loosen and remove the bolts securing the driveaxle constant velocity joint to the differential and recover the retaining plates. Position the driveaxle clear of the flange and tie it to the vehicle underbody using a piece of wire. **Note:** *Do not allow the driveaxle to hang under its own weight as the CV joint may be damaged.*
- 8 Withdraw the driveaxle outer constant velocity joint from the hub assembly. The outer joint will be very tight, tap the joint out of the hub using a soft-faced mallet. If this fails to free it from the hub, the joint will have to be pressed out using a suitable tool which is bolted to the hub.
- 9 Remove the driveaxle from underneath the vehicle.

### Installation

**Note:**

A new driveaxle retaining nut and bolts will be required on installation.

**10 Installation is the reverse of removal noting the following points.**

- A. Lubricate the threads of the new driveaxle nut with clean engine oil prior to fitting and tighten it to the specified torque. If necessary, wait until the vehicle is lower to the ground and then tighten the nut to the specified torque.**
- B. Install the inner joint new retaining bolts and plates and tighten them to the specified torque.**

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