



Haynes
shows you how

BMW 3-Series and Z4 (99-05) Includes 2006 325ci/330ci Coupe and Convertible models Haynes Online Manual.

17 Steering wheel - removal and installation

Warning:

These models are equipped with a Supplemental Restraint System (SRS), more commonly known as airbags. Always disable the airbag system before working in the vicinity of any airbag system component to avoid the possibility of accidental deployment of the airbag(s), which could cause personal injury (see Chapter 12).

Warning:

Do not use a memory saving device to preserve the PCM or radio memory when working on or near airbag system components.

Caution:

Don't allow the steering shaft to turn while the steering wheel is removed.

Removal

1 Disconnect the cable(s) from the battery negative terminal(s) (see [Chapter 5, Section 1](#)). Remove the airbag unit from the center of the steering wheel (see [Chapter 12](#)).

2 Set the front wheels in the straight-ahead position, and set the steering lock by removing the ignition key.

3 Loosen and remove the steering wheel retaining bolt. Disconnect the electrical connector(s) (see illustration)

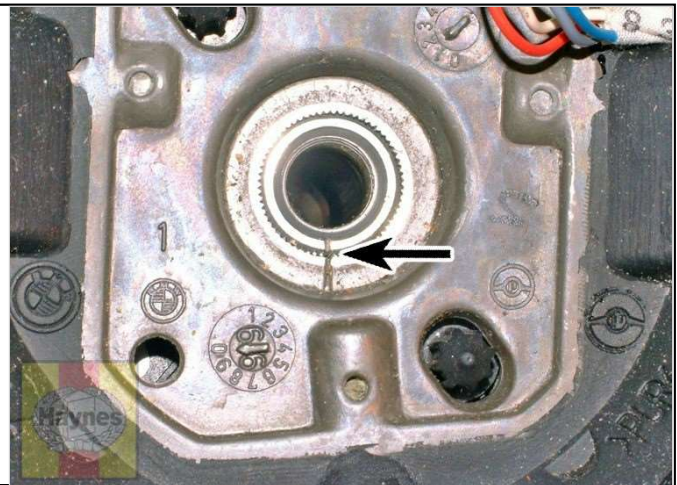
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17.3 Disconnect the electrical connectors and unscrew the steering wheel bolt



4 Mark the steering wheel and steering column shaft in relation to each other, then lift the steering wheel off the shaft splines. If it is tight, tap it up near the center, using the palm of your hand, or twist it from side-to-side, while pulling upwards to release it from the shaft splines (see illustration) . The airbag contact unit will automatically be locked in position as the wheel is removed; do not attempt to rotate it while the wheel is removed. **Caution:** *Do not strike the steering wheel or shaft with a hammer or use excessive force to remove it.*

17.4 Make alignment marks between the steering wheel and the column shaft



5 Inspect the horn contact ring/turn signal canceling cam for signs of wear or damage, and replace as necessary.

Installation

6 Installation is the reverse of removal, noting the following points.

- A. If the contact unit has been rotated with the wheel removed, re-center it by pressing down on the contact unit and rotating its center fully counterclockwise. From this position, rotate the center back through three complete rotations in a clockwise direction.
- B. Prior to installation, ensure the turn signal switch arm is in the center (OFF) position. Failure to do so could lead to the steering wheel lug breaking the switch tab.

- C. Coat the steering wheel horn contact ring with a small amount of petroleum jelly and reinstall the wheel, making sure the contact unit wiring is correctly routed.
- D. Engage the wheel with the column shaft splines, aligning the marks made on removal, and tighten the steering wheel retaining bolt to the specified torque.
- E. Reinstall the airbag unit (see [Chapter 12](#)).

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