



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

13 Brake check (every 15,000 miles or 12 months)

Warning:

Dust created by the brake system is harmful to your health. Never blow it out with compressed air and don't inhale any of it. An approved filtering mask should be worn when working on brakes. Do not, under any circumstances, use petroleum-based solvents to clean brake parts. Use brake system cleaner only!

1 The brakes should be inspected every time the wheels are removed or whenever a defect is suspected. Indications of a potential brake system problem include the vehicle pulling to one side when the brake pedal is depressed, noises coming from the brakes when they are applied, excessive brake pedal travel, a pulsating pedal and leakage of fluid, usually seen on the inside of the tire or wheel. **Note:** *It is normal for a vehicle equipped with an Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) to exhibit brake pedal pulsations during severe braking conditions.*

Disc brakes

2 Disc brakes can be visually checked without removing any parts except the wheels. Remove the hub caps (if applicable) and loosen the wheel bolts a quarter turn each.

3 Raise the vehicle and place it securely on jackstands. **Warning:** *Never work under a vehicle that is supported only by a jack!*

4 Remove the wheels. Now visible is the disc brake caliper which contains the pads. There is an outer brake pad and an inner pad. Both must be checked for wear. **Note:** *Usually the inner pad wears faster than the outer pad.* These vehicles have sensors in one front brake pad and one rear brake pad that keep the CBS (Condition Based Service) system informed of brake wear. If the system detects considerable wear in the pads, it will exhibit a warning on the instrument panel. However, if you are working on the vehicle and have one or more wheels removed, a visual inspection of the brakes is a good idea.

5 Measure the thickness of the outer pad at each end of the caliper and the inner pad through the inspection hole in the caliper body (see illustration). Compare the measurement with the limit given in [this Chapter's Specifications](#) ; if any brake pad thickness is less than specified, then all brake pads must be replaced (see [Chapter 9](#)).

13.5 Inspect the thickness of the brake pads through the inspection hole - typical



6 If you're in doubt as to the exact pad thickness or quality, remove them for measurement and further inspection (see [Chapter 9](#)).

7 Check the disc for score marks, wear and burned spots. If any of these conditions exist, the disc should be removed for servicing or replacement (see [Chapter 9](#)).

8 Before installing the wheels, check all the brake lines and hoses for damage, wear, deformation, cracks, corrosion, leakage, bends and twists, particularly in the vicinity of the rubber hoses and calipers.

9 Install the wheels, lower the vehicle and tighten the wheel bolts to the torque given in [this Chapter's Specifications](#).

Parking brake

10 Slowly pull up on the parking brake and count the number of clicks you hear until the handle is up as far as it will go. The adjustment is correct if you hear the specified number of clicks (see [this Chapter's Specifications](#)). If you hear more or fewer clicks, it's time to adjust the parking brake (see Chapter 9).

11 An alternative method of checking the parking brake is to park the vehicle on a steep hill with the engine running (so you can apply the brakes if necessary) with the parking brake set and the transmission in Neutral. If the parking brake cannot prevent the vehicle from rolling, it is in need of adjustment (see [Chapter 9](#)).