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

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## 15 Driveshaft support bearing - check and replacement

### Check

1 Wear in the support bearing will lead to noise and vibration when the vehicle is driven. The bearing is best checked with the driveshaft removed (see [Section 13](#)). To gain access to the bearing with the shaft in position, remove the exhaust system and heatshields (see [Chapter 4](#)).

2 Rotate the bearing and check that it turns smoothly with no sign of freeplay; if it's difficult to turn, or if it has a gritty feeling, replace it. Also inspect the rubber portion. If it's cracked or deteriorated, replace it.

### Replacement

3 Remove the driveshaft (see [Section 13](#)).

4 Make alignment marks between the front and rear sections of the driveshaft then unscrew the threaded sleeve nut and separate the two halves. Recover the sleeve nut, washer and bushing noting their locations.

5 Remove the snap-ring and slide off the support bearing rear dust cover.

6 Draw the support bearing off from the driveshaft using a suitable puller then remove the front dust cover in the same way.

7 Firmly support the support bearing bracket and press out the bearing with a suitable tubular spacer.

8 Install the new bearing to the bracket and press it into position using a tubular spacer which bears only on the bearing outer race.

9 Thoroughly clean the shaft splines and carefully press the new front dust seal onto the driveshaft, making sure it is installed the correct way.

10 Press the support bearing fully onto the driveshaft using a tubular spacer which bears only on the bearing inner race.

11 Check that the bearing is free to rotate smoothly, then install the new rear dust seal.

**12** Apply a smear of molybdenum disulfide grease (the manufacturer recommends Molykote Longterm 2) to the splines and install the threaded sleeve, washer and bushing to the front section of the driveshaft.

**13** Align the marks made prior to separation and joint the front and rear sections of the driveshaft.

**14** Install the driveshaft (see [Section 13](#) ).