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

12 Rear suspension coil spring - removal and installation

Note:

Always replace the coil springs in pairs.

Removal

1 Chock the front wheels, then jack up the rear of the vehicle and support it on axle stands. Remove the relevant wheel.

2 Referring to [Chapter 8](#), loosen and remove the retaining bolts and plates securing the right-hand driveaxle to the differential flange. Free the driveaxle and support it by tying 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.

3 Detach the stabilizer bar links from the trailing arms (see [Section 16](#)).

4 Position a jack underneath the rear of the trailing arm, and support the weight of the arm.

5 Loosen and remove the shock absorber lower mounting bolt.

6 Slowly lower the trailing arm, keeping watch on the brake pipe/hose to ensure no excess strain is placed on them, until it is possible to withdraw the coil spring.

7 Recover the spring seats from the vehicle body and control arm or trailing arm. If the vehicle is to be left for some time, raise the trailing arm back up and install the shock absorber lower mounting bolt.

8 Inspect the spring closely for signs of damage, such as cracking, and check the spring seats for signs of wear. Replace worn components as necessary.

Installation

9 Install the upper and lower spring seats, making sure they are correctly located on the pegs.

10 Apply a smear of grease to the spring ends and engage the spring with its upper seat.

11 Hold the spring in position and carefully raise the trailing arm while aligning the coil spring with its lower seat.

12 Raise the arm fully and install the shock absorber lower mounting bolt, tightening it by hand only at this stage.

13 Reconnect the stabilizer bar links to the trailing arms(see [Section 16](#)).

14 Referring to [Chapter 8](#) , connect the driveaxle to the differential, then install the retaining plates and bolts and tighten them to the specified torque.

15 Install the wheel then lower the vehicle to the ground. Tighten the wheel bolts and shock absorber lower mounting bolt to the specified torque.

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