

**Haynes**  
shows you how

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

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## 2 Oil pressure check

1 Low engine oil pressure can be a sign of an engine in need of rebuilding. A “low oil pressure” indicator (often called an “idiot light”) is not a test of the oiling system. Such indicators only come on when the oil pressure is dangerously low. Even a factory oil pressure gauge in the instrument panel is only a relative indication, although much better for driver information than a warning light. A better test is with a mechanical (not electrical) oil pressure gauge.

2 Locate the oil pressure switch. The oil pressure switch is mounted at the base of the oil filter housing (see [Chapter 2A](#)). **Note:** *On some models it may be necessary to remove the intake manifold to access the oil pressure switch (see [Chapter 4](#)).*

3 Unscrew and remove the oil pressure sending unit and then screw in the hose for your oil pressure gauge. If necessary, install an adapter fitting. Use Teflon tape or thread sealant on the threads of the adapter and/or the fitting on the end of your gauge's hose.

4 Connect an accurate tachometer to the engine, according to the tachometer manufacturer's instructions.

5 Check the oil pressure with the engine running (normal operating temperature) at the specified engine speed, and compare it to [this Chapter's Specifications](#). If it's extremely low, the bearings and/or oil pump are probably worn out.

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