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

1 General information

The braking system is of the servo-assisted, dual-circuit hydraulic type. Under normal circumstances, both circuits operate in unison. However, if there is hydraulic failure in one circuit, full braking force will still be available at two wheels.

All models are equipped with front and rear disc brakes. ABS is standard equipment on all models (refer to [Section 19](#) for further information on ABS operation). **Note:** *On models equipped with Dynamic Stability Control (DSC), the ABS system also operates the traction-control side of the system.*

The front disc brakes are actuated by single-piston sliding type calipers, which ensure that equal pressure is applied to each disc pad.

All models are equipped with rear disc brakes, actuated by single-piston sliding calipers, while a separate drum brake arrangement is installed in the center of the brake disc to provide a separate means of parking brake application. **Note:** *When servicing any part of the system, work carefully and methodically; also observe scrupulous cleanliness when overhauling any part of the hydraulic system. Always replace components if in doubt about their condition, and use only genuine BMW parts, or equivalent.*

Precautions

There are some general precautions and warnings related to the brake system:

- A. Use only brake fluid conforming to DOT 4 or DOT 4 low-viscosity specifications.
- B. The brake pads and linings contain fibers which are hazardous to your health if inhaled. Whenever you work on brake system components, clean all parts with brake system cleaner. Do not allow the fine dust to become airborne. Also, wear an approved filtering mask.
- C. Safety should be paramount whenever any servicing of the brake components is performed. Do not use parts or fasteners which are not in perfect condition, and be sure that all clearances and torque specifications are adhered to. If you are at all unsure about a certain procedure, seek professional advice. Upon completion of any brake system work, test the brakes carefully in a controlled area before putting the vehicle into normal service. If a problem is suspected in the brake system, don't drive the vehicle until it's fixed.
- D. Used brake fluid is considered a hazardous waste and it must be disposed of in accordance with federal, state and local laws.
- E. DO NOT pour it down the sink, into septic tanks or storm drains, or on the ground.

F. Clean up any spilled brake fluid immediately and then wash the area with large amounts of water. This is especially true for any finished or painted surfaces.

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