

**Haynes**
shows you how

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

BMW 3-Series Maintenance schedule

All BMW 3-series models are equipped with a service interval display indicator and a row of LEDs in the instrument panel.

When the ignition is switched on, the panel and LEDs will illuminate for a few seconds and then go out. The green LEDs indicate the amount of time until the next service, the fewer LEDs lit then the nearer the next service interval is. When the yellow LED is lit, a service is due and the display will show whether an oil service or inspection is needed; the clock symbol will be illuminated if the additional annual inspection operations are required. If the red LED is illuminated then the service is overdue.

There are two different inspection services, Inspection I and Inspection II, these should be carried out alternately with some additional items to be included every second Inspection II. If you are unclear as to which inspection schedule was carried out last time start with Inspection II (including the additional items).

To reset the service interval display indicator a BMW service tool is required. Aftermarket alternatives to the BMW tool are produced by several leading tool manufacturers and should be available from larger car accessory shops.

Every 250 miles (400 km) or weekly

Refer to Weekly checks ([Section 2](#))

Check the engine oil level

Check the engine coolant level

Check the brake and clutch fluid levels

Check the power steering fluid level

Check the windshield washer fluid level

Check the tires and tire pressures

Oil service

Replace the engine oil and filter ([Section 3](#))

Reset the service interval display ([Section 4](#))

Inspection I

Replace the engine oil and filter ([Section 3](#))

Check the automatic transmission fluid level ([Section 5](#))

Check all underhood components and hoses for fluid leaks ([Section 6](#))

Check the condition of the drivebelt(s), and adjust/replace if necessary ([Section 7](#))

Check the steering and suspension components for condition and security ([Section 8](#))

Check the front brake pad thickness ([Section 9](#))

Check the rear brake pad thickness - rear disc brake models ([Section 9](#))

Check the brake hoses and lines ([Section 10](#))

Check and lubricate the throttle linkage

Check the operation of the parking brake ([Section 12](#))

Check the exhaust system and mountings ([Section 13](#))

Check the condition and operation of the seat belts ([Section 14](#))

Lubricate all hinges and locks ([Section 15](#))

Replace the pollen filter element (if equipped) ([Section 16](#))

Check the headlight beam alignment ([Section 17](#))

Check the operation of the windshield/headlight washer system(s) (as applicable) ([Section 18](#))

Check the engine management system ([Section 19](#))

Carry out a road test ([Section 20](#))

Check/service the battery ([Section 21](#))

Check/replace the windshield wiper blades ([Section 22](#))

Reset service interval display ([Section 4](#))

Inspection II

Carry out all the operations listed under Inspection I, along with the following:

Replace the spark plugs ([Section 23](#))

Replace the air filter element ([Section 24](#))

Replace the automatic transmission fluid ([Section 25](#))

Replace the differential oil ([Section 26](#))

Check the condition of the driveaxle boots ([Section 27](#))

Check the condition of the parking brake shoe linings ([Section 28](#))

Reset the service interval display ([Section 4](#))

Additional work to be carried out every second inspection II:

Replace the manual transmission oil ([Section 29](#))

Replace the fuel filter ([Section 30](#))

Check the clutch ([Section 31](#))

Annual service

Note:

BMW specify that the following should be carried out whenever the service display clock illuminates or at least every 2 years

Replace the brake fluid ([Section 32](#))

Replace the coolant ([Section 33](#))

Reset the service interval display ([Section 4](#))

Every 50,000 miles

Replace the oxygen sensor(s) ([Section 34](#))

Every three years

Inspect the airbag system ([Section 35](#))
