



**Haynes**  
shows you how

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

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## 26 Differential oil replacement

- 1 Park the vehicle on level ground.
- 2 Locate the filler/level plug in the center of the differential rear cover. Unscrew the plug and recover the sealing washer.
- 3 Place a suitable container beneath the differential, then unscrew the drain plug from the base of the rear cover and allow the oil to drain. Recover the sealing washer.
- 4 Inspect the sealing washers for signs of damage and replace if necessary.
- 5 When the oil has finished draining, install the drain plug and sealing washer and tighten it to the specified torque.
- 6 Refill the differential through the filler/level plug hole with the specified type of oil up to the base of the filler/level plug hole. Install the filler/level plug and take the car on a short journey so that the new oil is distributed fully around the final drive components.
- 7 On return, park on level ground and allow the vehicle to stand for a few minutes. Unscrew the filler/level plug again. The oil level should reach the lower edge of the filler/level hole. To ensure that a true level is established, wait until the initial trickle has stopped, then add oil as necessary until a trickle of new oil can be seen emerging. The level will be correct when the flow ceases; use only good-quality oil of the specified type.
- 8 When the level is correct, install the filler/level plug and sealing washer and tighten it to the specified torque.

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