Haynes shows you how

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

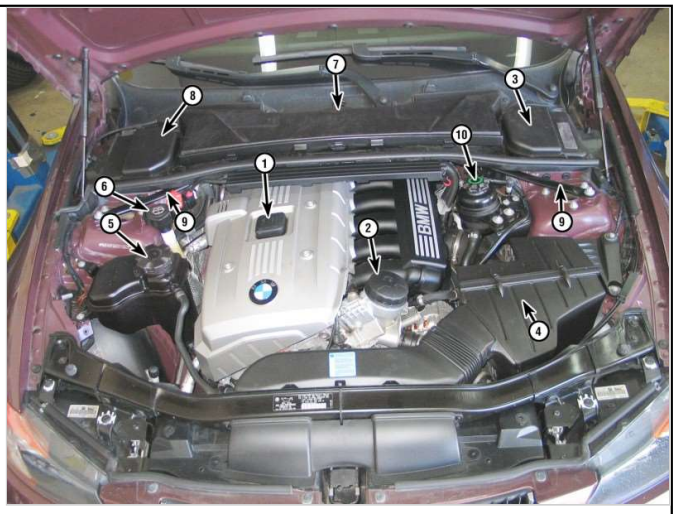
2 Introduction

General information

This Chapter is designed to help the home mechanic maintain his/her vehicle for safety, economy, long life and peak performance.

The Chapter contains a master maintenance schedule, followed by Sections dealing specifically with each task in the schedule. Visual checks, adjustments, component replacement and other helpful items are included. Refer to the **illustrations** for the location of most service points of the engine compartment and the underside of the vehicle.

Typical 3.0L engine compartment components



1 Engine oil filler cap

2 Oil filter cover

3 Brake and clutch fluid reservoir (under cover)

4 Air filter housing

5 Coolant expansion tank

6 Washer fluid reservoir

7 Cabin air filter cover

8 Engine electrical box (under cover)

9 Strut tower braces

10 Power steering fluid reservoir

Typical engine underside components (splash shield removed)

1 Engine oil pan drain plug

2 Catalytic converters

3 Control arms

4 Tension struts

5 Steering tie-rod

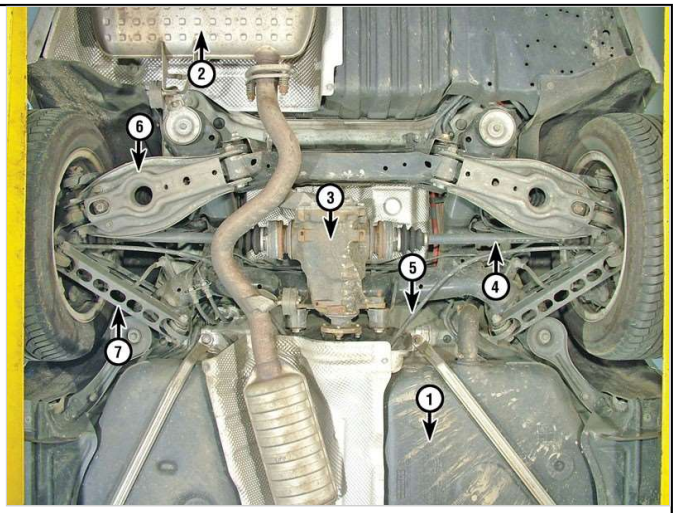
6 Stabilizer bar

7 Reinforcement frame

8 Steering rack

9 Oil level sensor

Typical rear underside components



1 Fuel tank

2 Muffler

3 Final drive unit

4 Driveshaft

5 Parking brake cable

6 Camber arm

7 Trailing arm

Servicing your vehicle in accordance with the service indicator display and the following Sections will provide a planned maintenance program, which should result in a long and reliable service life. This is a comprehensive plan, so maintaining some items but not others at the specified service intervals will not produce the same results.

As you service your vehicle, you will discover that many of the procedures can - and should - be grouped together, because of the particular procedure being performed, or because of the proximity of two otherwise-

unrelated components to one another. For example, if the vehicle is raised for any reason, the exhaust can be inspected at the same time as the suspension and steering components.

The first step in this maintenance program is to prepare yourself before the actual work begins. Read through all the procedures you're planning to do, then gather up all the parts and tools needed. If it looks like you might run into problems during a particular job, seek advice from a mechanic or an experienced do-it-yourselfer.

Owner's manual and VECI label information

Your vehicle owner's manual was written for your year and model and contains very specific information on component locations, specifications, fuse ratings, part numbers, etc. The owner's manual is an important resource for the do-it-yourselfer to have; if one was not supplied with your vehicle, it can generally be ordered from a dealer parts department.

Among other important information, the Vehicle Emissions Control Information (VECI) label contains specifications and procedures for applicable tune-up adjustments and, in some instances, spark plugs (see Chapter 6 for more information on the VECI label). The information on this label is the exact maintenance data recommended by the manufacturer. This data often varies by intended operating altitude, local emissions regulations, month of manufacture, etc.

This Chapter contains procedural details, safety information and more ambitious maintenance intervals than you might find in manufacturer's literature. However, you may also find procedures or specifications in your owner's manual or VECI label that differ with what's printed here. In these cases, the owner's manual or VECI label can be considered correct, since it is specific to your particular vehicle.