



Haynes
shows you how

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

6 Bumpers - removal and installation

3-Series models

Front bumper

- 1 Apply the parking brake, then jack up the front of the vehicle and support it on axle stands.
- 2 To gain access to the bumper mounting nuts, using a flat-bladed screwdriver, carefully unclip the rubber trim strip from the left-hand end of the bumper and the towing eye cover (see illustrations) . Take great care not to damage the painted finish of the bumper.

6.2a Unclip the trim strip from the left-hand end of the bumper . . .



6.2b . . . and remove the towing eye hole cover

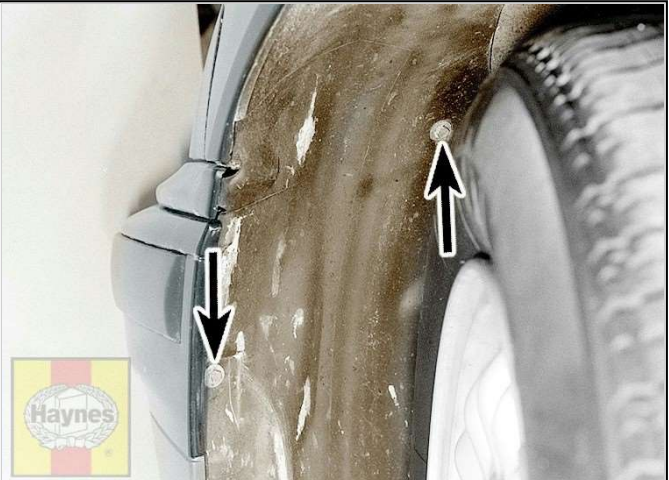


3 On models with front foglights, remove the access covers from the base of the bumper and disconnect the wiring connectors from the foglights.

4 Where necessary, disconnect the wiring connector(s) from the temperature sensor/thermostatic switch which is/are clipped into the brake cooling duct(s).

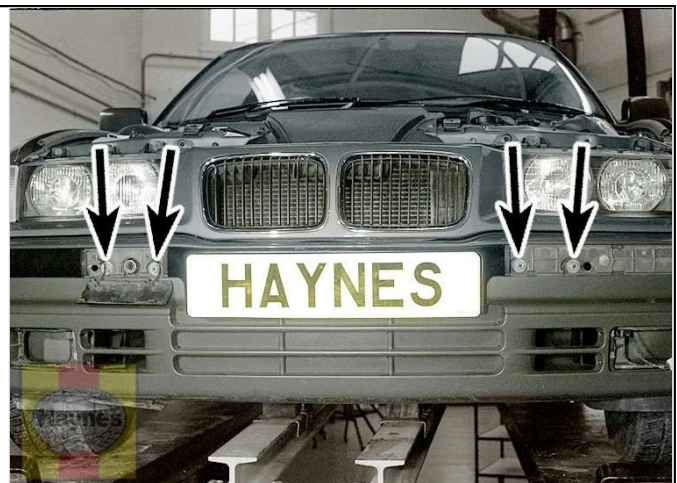
5 Loosen and remove the bumper end retaining screws which are accessed from underneath the left and right-hand wheel arches (see illustration) .

6.5 Remove the screws securing the wheel arch liner in position (arrows)



6 Unscrew the bumper mounting nuts and remove the bumper forwards and away from the vehicle (see illustrations) .

6.6a Loosen and remove the mounting nuts (arrows) . . .



6.6b . . . and remove the bumper from the vehicle



7 Inspect the bumper mountings for signs of damage and replace if necessary.

8 Installation is a reverse of the removal procedure, ensuring that the bumper mounting nuts and screws are securely tightened.

Rear bumper

9 To improve access, chock the front wheels, then jack up the rear of the vehicle and support it on axle stands.

10 Remove the fasteners and carefully unclip the panel from the base of the rear bumper. The fasteners are released by pulling out their center pins (see illustrations) .

6.10a Remove the fastener from each end . . .



6.10b . . . and unclip the trim panel from the base of the rear bumper



11 Undo the screws securing the wheel arch liners to the bumper ends. Pry out the retaining clip center pins and remove the clips securing the liner to the bumper.

12 Loosen and remove the bumper lower mounting bolts and remove the bumper from the rear of the vehicle (see illustrations) . Where necessary, disconnect the wiring connectors from the bumper distance sensors.

6.12a Unscrew the mounting bolts . . .



6.12b . . . and remove the bumper from the vehicle



13 Installation is a reverse of the removal procedure ensuring that the bumper ends are correctly engaged with

their slides. Apply locking compound to the bumper mounting bolts and tighten them securely.

Z3 models

Note:

The front and rear bumper covers are each attached to the bumper by 16 rivets. If either cover is removed from the bumper, some of these rivets might be damaged. It's a good idea to have a supply of new rivets handy for reattaching the cover to the bumper. Do not reuse damaged rivets.

Front bumper

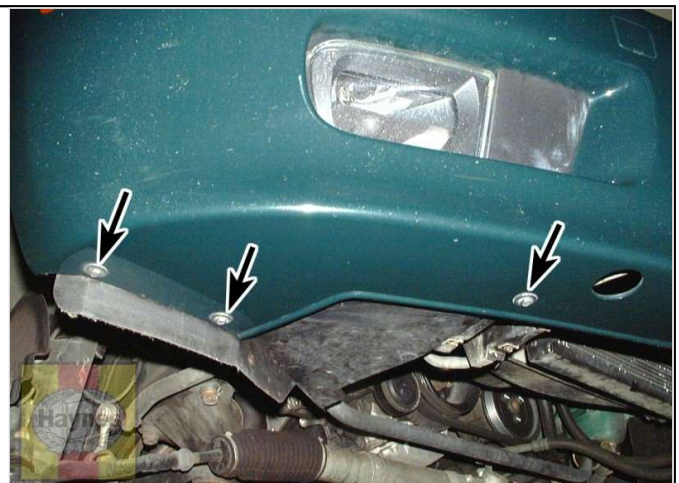
14 Raise the hood. Loosen the wheel bolts, raise the front of the vehicle and support it securely on jackstands. Remove the front wheels.

15 Remove the three mounting screws from each end of the engine splash shield and then remove the two filler panels (see illustrations) .

6.15a To detach the engine splash shield, remove these three bolts (arrows) from each end (left end of splash shield shown)



6.15b To remove the two filler panels from the bumper cover, remove these three bolts (arrows) from each panel (right filler panel shown)



16 Unplug the electrical connectors from the fog lights (see illustration) .

6.16 Unplug the electrical connectors from the fog lights (right fog light connector shown)



17 Remove the left and right Torx 50 bumper mounting bolts from the bumper mounts (see illustration) .

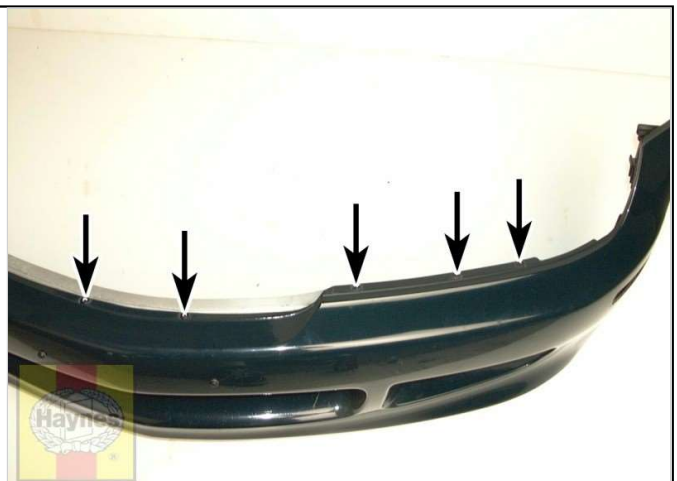
6.17 To detach the front bumper/bumper cover assembly from the vehicle, remove the two Torx 50 bumper mounting bolts (right bolt shown)



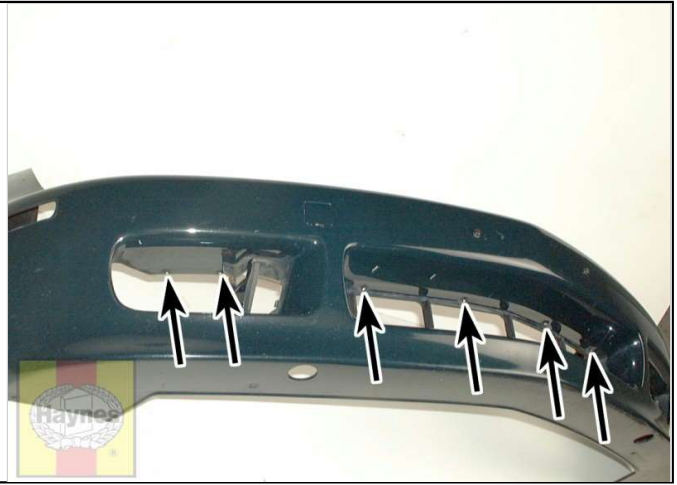
18 Pull the bumper cover/bumper assembly forward to separate it from the bumper mounts.

19 To detach the bumper cover from the bumper, remove the 16 rivets, eight on top, eight on the bottom (see illustrations) .

6.19a The front bumper cover is attached to the front bumper by 16 rivets, eight on the top (arrows) . . .



6.19b . . . and the eight on the bottom (arrows) (not all rivets visible in these photos)



20 Installation is the reverse of removal. Be sure to replace any damaged rivets. After the bumper has been installed, check the gap between the bumper cover and the body. The gap should be about 5 mm and it should be even. If it isn't, adjust the bumper (see below).

Rear bumper

21 Remove the license plate support retaining screws (see illustration) and remove the license plate lights from the bumper.

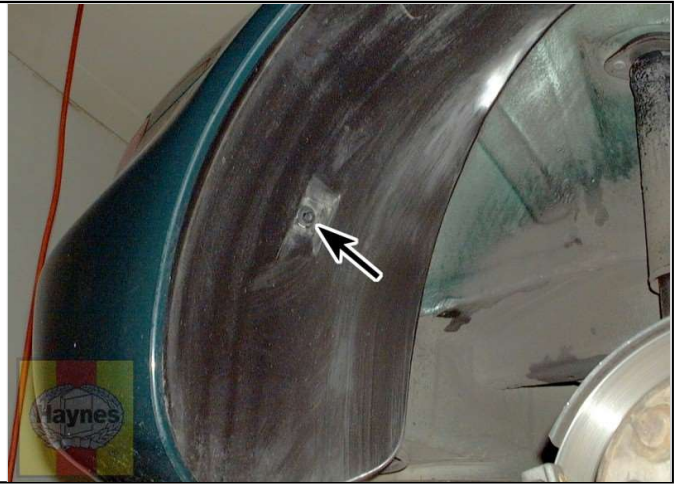
6.21 To detach the license plate support, remove these four retaining screws (arrows)



22 Loosen the rear wheel bolts, raise the rear of the vehicle and place it securely on jackstands. Remove the rear wheels.

23 Remove the rivets that attach the wheel well liners to the bumper (see illustration) .

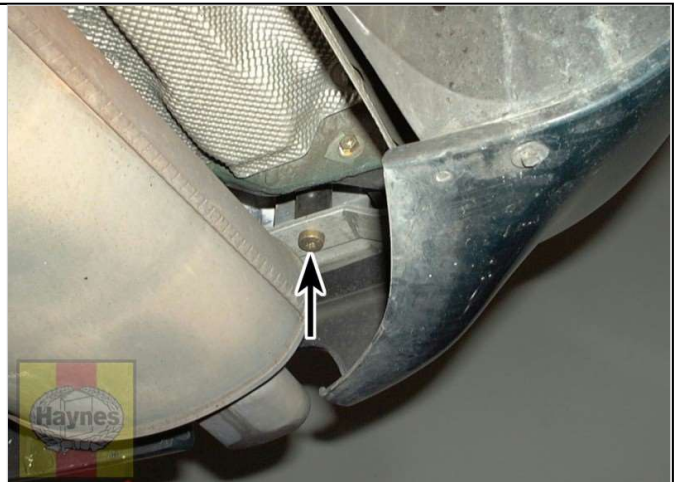
6.23 To detach the wheel liners from the rear bumper assembly, remove this rivet (arrow) from each liner



24 Remove the bolts that attach the wheel well liners to the rear bumper cover (see illustration 7.20) .

25 Remove the left and right Torx 50 bumper mounting bolts from the underside of the bumper (see illustration)

6.25 To detach the rear bumper assembly from the vehicle, remove the Torx 50 bumper mounting bolt (arrow) from the underside of each end of the bumper (left bolt shown)



26 Have an assistant push down on the bumper cover while you pull the bumper to the rear and slide it out from under the taillights.

27 To detach the bumper cover from the bumper, remove the 16 rivets (eight on top, eight on bottom).

28 Installation is the reverse of removal. Be sure to replace any damaged rivets. After the bumper has been installed, check the gap between the bumper cover and the body. The gap should be about 5 mm and it should be even. If it isn't, adjust the bumper (see below).

Adjusting the bumper height

Note:

A special BMW tool (51 1 130) is needed to adjust the bumper height. If you don't have this tool or a suitable substitute, have the bumper height adjusted by a BMW dealer.

29 Remove the Torx 50 bumper mounting bolts, attach the BMW special tool or a suitable substitute to a 12-inch extension, and insert the tool up through the recess for the bumper mount. Turn the tool clockwise or counterclockwise as necessary to change the height of the adjusting collar. Alternate between the left and right adjusting collars until the gap between the bumper cover and the body is about 5 mm and even.

30 Remove the special tool, install the bumper mounting bolts and tighten them securely.

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