



Haynes
shows you how

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

32 Brake fluid replacement

03:18

Caution:

This video is for familiarization purposes only. Read below for specific information on your vehicle.

Warning:

Brake fluid can harm your eyes and damage painted surfaces, so use extreme caution when handling and pouring it. Do not use fluid that has been standing open for some time, as it absorbs moisture from the air. Excess moisture can allow the fluid to boil during periods of heavy braking, causing a dangerous loss of braking effectiveness.

- 1 The procedure is similar to that for the bleeding of the hydraulic system as described in [Chapter 9](#) , except that the brake fluid reservoir should be emptied by siphoning, using a clean poultry baster or similar tool before starting, and allowance should be made for the old fluid to be expelled when bleeding a section of the circuit.

Warning: *If a baster is used, never again use it for food preparation.*

2 Working as described in [Chapter 9](#) , open the first bleed screw in the sequence, and pump the brake pedal gently until nearly all the old fluid has been emptied from the master cylinder reservoir. **Note:** *Old brake fluid is invariably much darker in color than the new, making it easy to distinguish the two.*

3 Top-up to the “MAX” level with new fluid, and continue pumping until only the new fluid remains in the reservoir, and new fluid can be seen emerging from the bleed screw. Tighten the screw, and top the reservoir level up to the “MAX” level line.

4 Work through all the remaining bleed screws in the sequence until new fluid can be seen at all of them. Be careful to keep the master cylinder reservoir topped-up to above the “MIN” level at all times, or air may enter the system and greatly increase the length of the task.

5 When the operation is complete, check that all bleed screws are securely tightened, and that their dust caps are installed. Wash off all traces of spilled fluid, and recheck the master cylinder reservoir fluid level.

6 Check the operation of the brakes before taking the car on the road.

© 2024 Haynes Manuals, Inc. Contact us