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

8 Heating and ventilation system - general information

1 The heating/ventilation system consists of a multi-speed blower motor, face-level vents in the center and at each end of the instrument panel, and air ducts to the front and rear footwells.

2 The control unit is located in the center of the instrument panel, and the controls operate flap valves to deflect and mix the air flowing through the various parts of the heating/ventilation system. The flap valves are contained in the air distribution housing, which acts as a central distribution unit, passing air to the various ducts and vents.

3 Cold air enters the system through the grille at the rear of the engine compartment. A cabin air filter is installed at the inlet to filter out dust, spores and soot from the incoming air.

4 The airflow, which can be boosted by the blower, then flows through the various ducts, according to the settings of the controls. Stale air is expelled through ducts at the rear of the vehicle. If warm air is required, the cold air is passed through the heater core, which is heated by the engine coolant.

5 If necessary, the outside air supply can be closed off, allowing the air inside the vehicle to be recirculated. This can be useful to prevent unpleasant odors entering from outside the vehicle, but should only be used briefly, as the recirculated air inside the vehicle will soon deteriorate.

6 Certain models may have optional heated front seats. The heat is produced by electrically-heated mats in the seat and backrest cushions (see [Chapter 12](#)). The temperature is regulated automatically by a thermostat, and can be set at one of three levels, controlled by switches on the instrument panel.

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