

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

13 Catalytic converter - testing, precautions and replacement

Testing

1 The performance of the catalytic converter is monitored by the oxygen sensors. When a change in readings occurs between the upstream and downstream sensors, a trouble code should be set that indicates the catalytic converter is not working efficiently.

2 Take the vehicle to a dealer or other qualified shop for analysis.

Precautions

3 The catalytic converter is a reliable and simple device which needs no maintenance in itself, but there are some facts an owner should be aware of if the converter is to function properly for its full service life.

- A. Always keep the ignition and fuel systems well-maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's schedule.
- B. If the engine develops a misfire, do not drive the vehicle at all (or at least as little as possible) until the fault is corrected.
- C. DO NOT push- or tow-start the vehicle - this will soak the catalytic converter in unburned fuel, causing it to overheat when the engine does start.
- D. DO NOT switch off the ignition at high engine speeds.
- E. DO NOT use fuel or engine oil additives - these may contain substances harmful to the catalytic converter.
- F. DO NOT continue to use the vehicle if the engine burns oil to the extent of leaving a visible trail of blue smoke.
- G. Remember that the catalytic converter operates at very high temperatures. DO NOT, therefore, park the vehicle in dry undergrowth, over long grass or piles of dead leaves after a long run.
- H. Remember that the catalytic converter is FRAGILE - do not strike it with tools during servicing work.
- I. In some cases a sulphurous smell (like that of rotten eggs) may be noticed from the exhaust. This is common to many catalytic converter-equipped cars and once the vehicle has covered a few thousand miles, the problem should disappear.
- J. The catalytic converter, used on a well-maintained and well-driven vehicle, should last for between 50,000 and 100,000 miles - if the converter is no longer effective, it must be replaced.

Replacement

4 The catalytic converter is integral with the exhaust manifold, and they are replaced as a unit (see [Chapter 4](#)).

© 2024 Haynes Manuals, Inc. Contact us