



**Owner's Manual for the Vehicle.**  
With a quick reference guide  
for your convenience.

**M3**



**M3 convertible**

Congratulations, and thank you for choosing a BMW M3 convertible.

Thorough familiarity with your vehicle will provide you with enhanced security and control when you drive it. Therefore, we have one request:

Please take the time to read this Owner's Manual and familiarize yourself with the information that we have compiled for you before starting off in your new BMW M3 convertible. The manual contains important data and instructions intended to assist you in obtaining maximum satisfaction from your BMW M3 convertible's unique array of advanced technical features. It also contains information on care and maintenance designed to enhance operating safety while simultaneously helping you to maintain your BMW's value throughout an extended service life.

BMW M also offers BMW driver training courses specifically designed to serve as an important element within our overall drive to promote greater highway safety.

This Owner's Manual should be considered a permanent part of this vehicle. It should stay with the vehicle when sold to provide the next owner with important operating, safety and maintenance information.

This manual is supplemented by a Service and Warranty Information Booklet (US models) or a Warranty and Service Guide Booklet (Canadian models).

We recommend that you read this publication thoroughly.

Your BMW M3 convertible is covered by the following warranties:

- New Vehicle Limited Warranty
- Limited Rust Perforation Warranty
- Federal Emissions System Defect Warranty
- Federal Emissions Performance Warranty
- California Emission Control System Limited Warranty

Detailed information about these warranties is listed in the Service and Warranty Information Booklet (US models) or in the Warranty and Service Guide Booklet (Canadian models).

We wish you an enjoyable driving experience.

BMW M

## Notes on the Owner's Manual

We have made every effort to ensure that you are able to find what you need in this Owner's Manual as quickly as possible. The fastest way to find certain topics is by using the detailed index at the end. If you wish to gain only an initial overview of your vehicle, you will find this in the first chapter.


The table of contents is intended to pique your interest regarding your BMW and to encourage you to read the manual.


Should you wish to sell your BMW at some time in the future, please remember to hand over the Owner's Manual to the new owner; it is part of the vehicle.


Should you have any further questions, your BMW center will be glad to assist at any time.

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## Symbols used


 Indicates instructions or precautions that must be followed precisely in order to avoid the possibility of personal injury and serious damage to the vehicle. ◀

 Contains information that will assist you in gaining the optimum benefit from your vehicle and enable you to care more effectively for your vehicle. ◀

 Refers to measures that can be taken to help protect the environment. ◀

◀ Marks the end of a specific item of information.

\* Indicates special equipment, country-specific equipment and optional extras.

 Identifies index entries that refer to owner service procedures or topics on car care.



Identifies systems or components, which your BMW center can either activate or adapt to suit an individual driver's requirements ("Car Memory", "Key Memory"). Refer to page 55. ◀

## Your individual vehicle

In buying your BMW, you have decided in favor of a model with individualized equipment and features. This Owner's Manual describes all of the equipment that the BMW M3 convertible has to offer you.


We hope you will understand that equipment and features are included which you might not have chosen for your vehicle. You can easily spot any possible differences, since all optional accessories are marked with an asterisk \*.

If your BMW features equipment which is not described in this Owner's Manual (car radio or telephone, for instance), Supplementary Owner's Manuals are enclosed. We ask you to read these manuals as well.

### **Status at time of printing**

BMW pursues a policy of continuous, ongoing development that is conceived to ensure that our vehicles continue to embody the highest quality and safety standards combined with advanced, state-of-the-art technology. For this reason, it is possible that the features described in this Owner's Manual could differ from those on your vehicle. Nor can errors and omissions be entirely ruled out. You are therefore asked to appreciate that no legal claims can be entertained on the basis of the data, illustrations or descriptions in this Owner's Manual.

## For your own safety

 Use unleaded gasoline only. Fuels containing up to and including 10% ethanol or other oxygenates with up to 2.8% oxygen by weight (i.e. 15% MTBE or 3% methanol plus an equivalent amount of co-solvent) will not void the applicable warranties covering defects in materials or workmanship. Field experience has indicated significant differences in fuel quality (volatility, composition, additives, etc.) among gasolines offered for sale in the United States and Canada. The use of poor-quality fuels may result in drivability, starting and stalling problems especially under certain environmental conditions, such as high ambient temperature and high altitude. Should you encounter drivability problems which you suspect could be related to the fuel you are using, we recommend that you respond by switching to a recognized high-quality brand. Failure to comply with these recommendations may result in unscheduled maintenance. Obey pertinent safety rules when you are handling gasoline. ◀



## Important safety information!

For your own safety, use genuine parts and accessories approved by BMW.

When you purchase accessories tested and approved by BMW and Original BMW Parts, you simultaneously acquire the assurance that they have been thoroughly tested by BMW to ensure optimum performance when installed on your vehicle.

BMW warrants these parts to be free from defects in material and workmanship.

BMW will not accept any liability for damage resulting from installation of parts and accessories not approved by BMW.

BMW cannot test every product on the market to verify if it can be used on a BMW safely and without risk to either the vehicle, its operation, or its occupants.

Original BMW Parts, BMW Accessories and other products approved by BMW, together with professional advice on using these items, are available from all BMW centers.

Installation and operation of non-BMW approved accessories such as alarms, radios, amplifiers, radar detectors, wheels, suspension components, brake dust shields, telephones (including operation of any portable cellular phone from within the vehicle without using an externally mounted antenna) or transmitter equipment (such as CB, walkie-talkie, ham radio or similar) may cause extensive damage to the vehicle, compromise its safety, interfere with the vehicle's electrical system or affect the validity of the BMW Limited Warranty. Contact your BMW center for additional information. ◀



Maintenance, replacement, or repair of the emission control devices and systems may be performed by any automotive repair establishment or individual using any certified automotive part. ◀

## Symbol on vehicle parts



Indicates that you should consult the relevant section of this Owner's Manual for information on a specific part or assembly.

The following only applies to vehicles owned and operated in the US.

## **REPORTING SAFETY DEFECTS**

If you believe that your vehicle has a defect that could cause a crash or could cause injury or death, you should immediately inform the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in addition to notifying BMW of North America, Inc., PO. Box 1227, Westwood, New Jersey 07675-1227, Telephone (201) 307-4000.

If NHTSA receives similar complaints, it may open an investigation, and if it finds that a safety defect exists in a group of vehicles, it may order a recall and remedy campaign. However, NHTSA cannot become involved in individual problems between you, your dealer, or BMW of North America, Inc.

To contact NHTSA, you may either call the Auto Safety Hotline toll-free at 1-800-424-9393 (or 366-0123 in Washington, D.C. area) or write to: NHTSA, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590. You can also obtain other information about motor vehicle safety from the Hotline.



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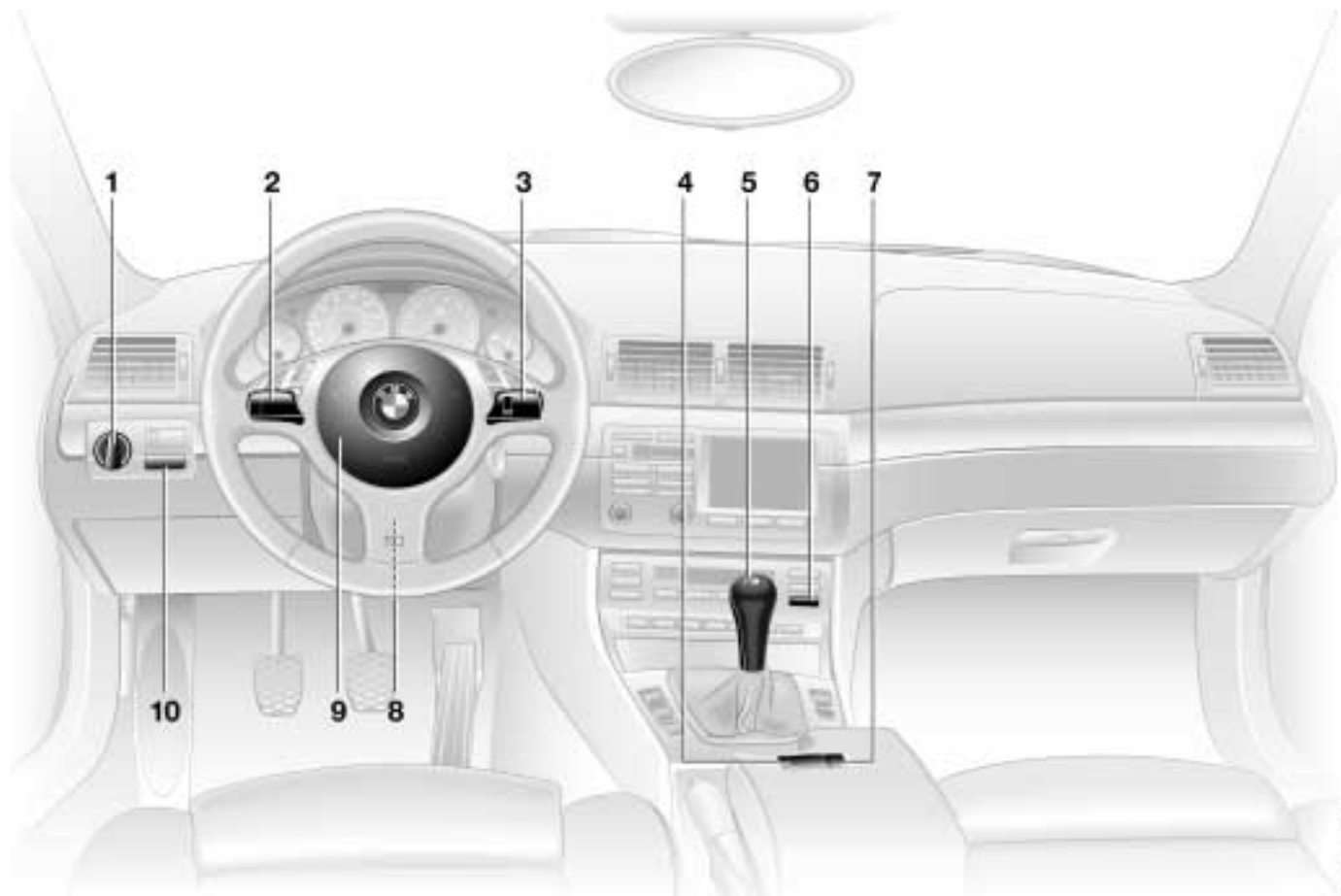
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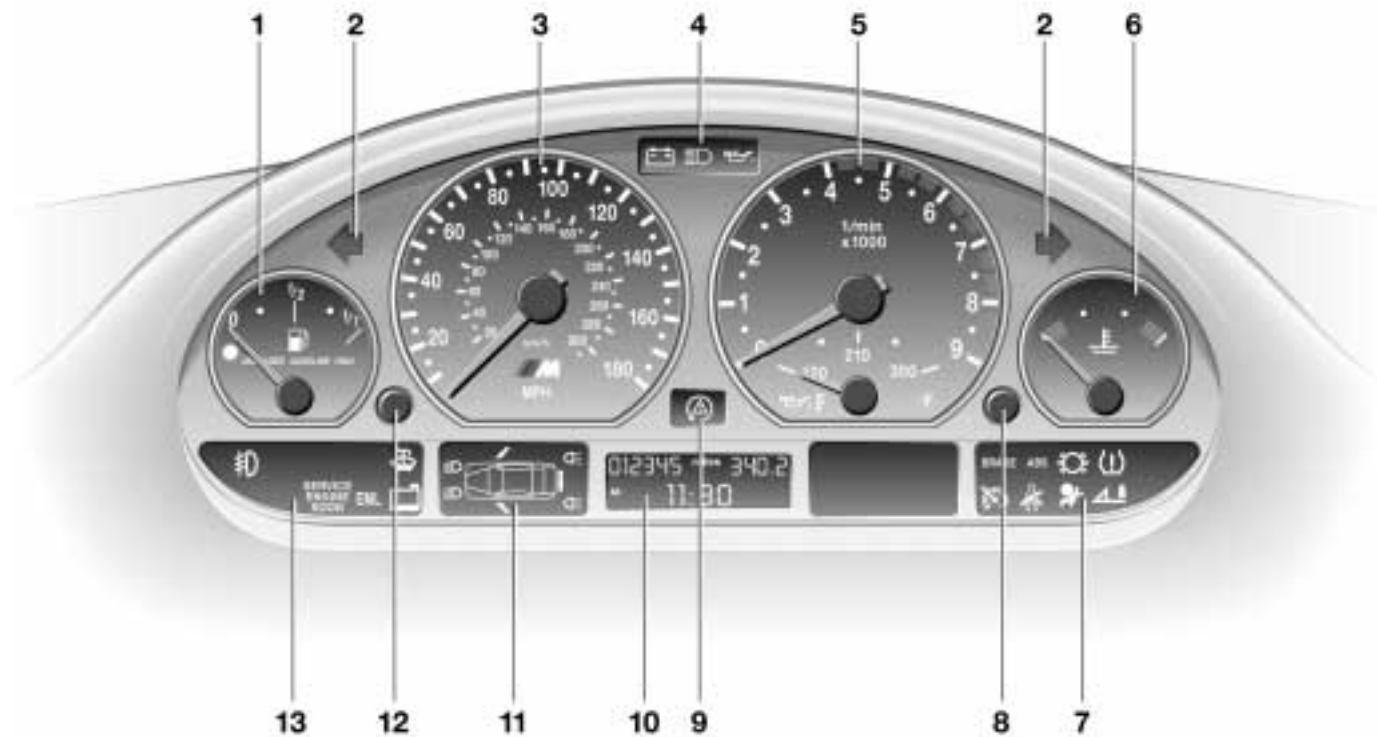
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- ▷ Outside temperature
- ▷ Average fuel consumption
- ▷ Cruising range
- ▷ Average speed

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You can have the outside temperature and distance traveled shown in other units of measurement. ◀

## 20 Indicator and warning lamps

### Technology that monitors itself

Many of the systems in your BMW monitor themselves automatically, both during engine starts and while you are driving. Indicator and warning lamps identified by "●" are tested for proper operation whenever the ignition key is turned. They each light up once for different periods of time.

If a fault should occur in one of these systems, the corresponding lamp does not go out after the engine is started, or it lights up while the vehicle is moving. You will see how to react to this below.

### Red: stop immediately



**Battery charge current ●**  
The battery is no longer being charged. Indicates a problem with the alternator's drive belt or a defect in the charging circuit. Please contact the nearest BMW center.



**Never attempt to continue driving with a defective alternator drive belt, as this could result in overheating and serious engine damage. A defective belt also leads to a substantial increase in the amount of effort required to steer the vehicle. ◀**



**Engine oil pressure ●**  
Stop vehicle immediately and switch off engine. Check the engine oil and top up as required. If the oil level is correct: please contact the nearest BMW center.



**Do not attempt to continue driving, as lack of adequate lubrication can lead to serious engine damage. ◀**



**Tire Pressure Warning (RDW)**  
This display is accompanied by an audible warning signal: the vehicle has a flat tire. Reduce your speed immediately and avoid all abrupt braking or steering maneuvers as you bring the vehicle to a halt. For additional information, refer to page [81](#).




**Brake warning lamp ●**  
If the lamp comes on when the parking brake is not engaged: Check the brake fluid level. Before driving further, be sure to comply with the information on pages [109](#) and [130](#).





**Brake warning lamp for Canadian models.**

## Red: an important reminder

 Parking brake ●  
Comes on when the parking brake is applied – an additional acoustic signal sounds when starting off.


For additional information, refer to page [67](#).

 Brake warning lamp for Canadian models.

 Lock backrest/Please fasten safety belt ●  
The warning lamp flashes if a backrest detent is not locked in place, or comes on continuously if a safety belt has not (yet) been fastened. The visual warning is supplemented by an acoustic signal.




For detailed information on locking the backrest, refer to page [51](#).

For additional information on safety belts, refer to page [57](#).


 Airbags ●  
Please respond to any defects by having the system checked at your BMW center as soon as possible.

For additional information, refer to pages [61](#), [168](#).

## Red and yellow: continue driving cautiously


 The red brake warning lamp comes on together with the yellow indicator lamps for ABS and DSC:  
 The entire ABS, CBC and DSC control system has failed.  
 Continue driving cautiously and defensively. Avoid hard brake applications. Please have the system checked by your BMW center as soon as possible.

For additional information, refer to page [80](#), [107](#).


 ABS, CBC and DSC indicator and warning lamps for Canadian models.




## Yellow: check as soon as possible


 Antilock Brake System (ABS) ●  
ABS has been deactivated in response to a system malfunction. Conventional braking efficiency is available without limitations. Please have the system checked by your BMW center.

For additional information, refer to page [106](#).

 ABS warning lamp for Canadian models.

 Engine oil level  
Lights up while driving:  
The oil level is at the absolute minimum; therefore, add engine oil as soon as possible. Do not drive more than approx. 30 miles (50 km) until you do.

For additional information, refer to page [127](#).

 Engine oil level  
Comes on after the engine has been shut off: add more engine oil the next time you stop for gas.  
For additional information, refer to page [127](#).

## 22 Indicator and warning lamps



### Brake pads ●

Have the brake pads checked. For additional information, refer to page [109](#).



### Tire Pressure Warning (RDW) ●

RDW has been switched off or has been deactivated in response to a malfunction. In the event of a malfunction, have the system checked by your nearest BMW center. For additional information, refer to pages [27](#), [81](#).



### Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) ●

If the indicator lamp flashes: The system is active and governs drive force and braking force. If the indicator lamp fails to go out after the engine is started, or if it comes on during normal driving and stays on: DSC has been switched off or has been deactivated in response to a malfunction. In the event of a malfunction, have the system checked by your nearest BMW center. For additional information, refer to page [80](#).



### Add washer fluid

The washer fluid is too low. Top up the fluid at the earliest opportunity. For additional information, refer to page [126](#).



### Service Engine Soon ●

If the indicator lamp comes on either continuously or intermittently, this indicates a fault in the emissions-related electronic systems. Although the vehicle remains operational, you should have the systems checked by your BMW center at the earliest possible opportunity. For additional information, refer to page [142](#).



Warning lamp: Service Engine Soon for Canadian models.



### Engine electronics ●

There is a fault in the engine's electronic control system. The electronics allow for continued driving with reduced engine output or speed. Please have the system checked by your BMW center.



### Add coolant

The coolant level is too low. Add coolant at the earliest opportunity. For additional information, refer to page [129](#).



### Rollover protection system ●

The rollover protection system has been deactivated in response to a malfunction. Please have the system checked by your BMW center as soon as possible. For additional information, refer to page [64](#).

# Indicator and warning lamps

## Green: for your information



Turn signal indicator

Flashes when the turn signal is on. Rapid flashing indicates a system malfunction.

For additional information, refer to page [69](#).



Cruise control

Lights up when the cruise control is activated: available for operation via the multifunction steering wheel.

For additional information, refer to page [71](#).



Fog lamps

Comes on whenever you switch on the fog lamps.

For additional information, refer to page [85](#).

## Blue: for your information



High beams


Comes on when the high beams are on or the headlamp flasher is actuated.

For additional information, refer to pages [69](#), [85](#).

## 24 Multifunction steering wheel (MFL)

The buttons integrated in the multifunction steering wheel (MFL) are provided so that you can operate a number of accessories quickly and without being distracted from traffic conditions. You can operate:

- ▷ selected radio functions
- ▷ the cruise control
- ▷ selected cellular phone functions\*.

 In order to operate a system via the MFL, the corresponding systems must be activated. ◀



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Horn: the entire surface   | 7 Cruise control: activate stored setting (resume)                             |
| 2 Radio/Telephone: select  | 8 Cruise control: accelerate and store (+) as well as decelerate and store (-) |
| 3 Cellular phone: receive a call, start dialing, terminate a call                          | 9 Cruise control: activate/interrupt/deactivate                                |
| 4 Radio/Telephone: volume  |  |
| 5 Radio/Telephone: scan backward or scan station keys or scroll through the phone listings |  |
| 6 Radio/Telephone: scan forward or scan station keys or scroll through the phone listings  |  |


## Hazard warning flashers      Warning triangle\*



Activating and deactivating: press button.

The button flashes rhythmically when the hazard warning flashers are on.


To help you locate the button in an emergency, the button is also illuminated whenever the vehicle's lamps are on.

 The turn signal function takes precedence over the hazard warning flasher function. Starting from ignition key position 1, you are therefore able to use the turn signal, even if the hazard warning flashers have been activated. ◀




The hazard warning triangle is readily accessible. It is stored in the container for the onboard tool kit mounted in the luggage compartment lid.


To open the container, loosen the wing nut.

 Always observe all legal regulations requiring a warning triangle to be carried in the vehicle. ◀




 Close the fuel cap carefully after refueling until a "click" is heard. While closing, be sure not to squeeze the strap which is fastened to the cap. A loose or missing cap will activate the "Service Engine Soon" warning lamp. ◀

### Fuel filler door

 Before filling the tank, shut off the engine. If you do not, fuel cannot be filled into the tank and the "Service Engine Soon" lamp may come on. ◀


Press on the rear edge of the fuel filler door to open and close it.

To unlock the filler door if the central locking system fails, refer to page [161](#).

 When handling fuels, comply with all of the applicable safety precautions and regulations pertaining to fuels.

Never carry spare fuel containers in your vehicle. Whether empty or full, these containers can leak, cause an explosion, or lead to fire in the event of a collision. ◀

### Simple and friendly to the environment

 Open the filler cap carefully to prevent fuel from spraying out. Fuel spray may cause injury. ◀

Keep the filler cap in the bracket attached to the fuel filler door.

When refueling, insert the filler nozzle completely into the filler pipe. Pulling the nozzle out of the pipe during refueling

- ▷ results in premature pump shutoff
- ▷ and will reduce the effect of the vapor recovery system on the pump.

The fuel tank is full, whenever the fuel nozzle shuts off the first time, as is specified for proper service.

Tank capacity, refer to page [181](#).

## Fuel specifications

The engine uses lead-free gasoline only.

Required fuel:

- ▷ Premium Unleaded Gasoline, min. 91 AKI.  
AKI = Anti Knock Index



Do not use leaded fuels. The use of leaded fuels will cause permanent damage to the system's oxygen sensor and the catalytic converter. ◀

## Tire inflation pressures



The correct tire inflation pressures are on a sticker attached to the B-pillar and visible with the driver's door open.

### Checking tire pressures

All tire pressure and ambient air temperature specifications are stated in the units usually used in your country (psi; kilopascal) (also see the following tire inflation pressure table).

After correcting the tire inflation pressure, re-initialize the Tire Pressure Warning system (RDW) so that it can monitor the tire inflation pressure. Refer to page [81](#).



Check tire inflation pressures regularly – at least every two weeks and before beginning a longer



trip. Otherwise, incorrect tire pressure can lead to poor handling, tire damage and accidents. ◀

### Comply with tire approval specifications

The inflation pressures in the table apply to tires made by BMW approved manufacturers. Your BMW center is familiar with these pressures. Higher pressures may be specified for tires made by other manufacturers. You will find a list of approved tire sizes on page [120](#).

Your vehicle is equipped with tires that not only meet US standards, but also European standards. We recommend the exclusive use of BMW approved tires.

## 28 Tire inflation pressures

BMW	Tires All pressure specifications in the table are indicated in psi (kilopascal) with cold tires (cold = ambient temperature)				
225/45 ZR 18	33 (230)	-	41 (280)	-	
255/40 ZR 18	-	35 (240)	-	48 (330)	
M3 convertible	225/40 ZR 19	33 (230)	-	41 (280)	-
	255/35 ZR 19	-	35 (240)	-	48 (330)
	225/45 R 17 91H M+S	33 (230)	38 (260)	36 (250)	46 (320)



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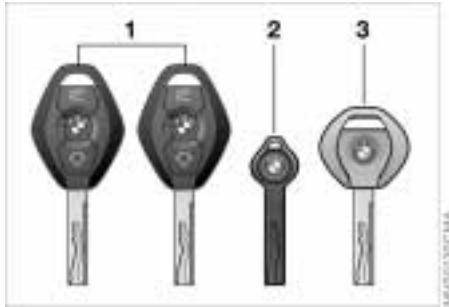
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### The key set

- 1 Master key with remote control  
This key sets the functions for Key Memory. Refer to page 55.  
You can also identify individual keys by applying the colored decals that you received when accepting delivery of your vehicle.

▶ There is an extended-life battery in every master key with remote control that is charged automatically in the ignition lock as you drive. For this reason, if you have a master key with remote control that is otherwise not used, use that key at least once every year while driving for an extended period to charge the battery. Refer to page 35 as well. ◀

- 2 Spare key for storage in a safe place, such as in your wallet.  
This key is not intended for constant use
- 3 Door key  
The locks for the luggage compartment lid and the glove compartment cannot be operated with this key – this is recommended for valet parking, for instance.

### Replacement keys

are available exclusively through your BMW center. Since the keys are part of a security system, vehicle ownership must be checked before a replacement key can be issued (refer to "Electronic vehicle immobilizer" on page 33).

▶ When picking up the replacement key, take along all master keys with remote control and spare keys belonging to the vehicle. Whenever you receive a new replacement key, turn that key to position 2 in the ignition lock once (ignition switched on) and then back. This allows the electronic vehicle immobilizer to "recognize" the new key. ◀



### The key to security

Your BMW is equipped with a passive anti-theft system. This electronic immobilization system is designed to reduce the susceptibility of the vehicle to theft by making it impossible to start the engine using any means other than the special keys furnished with the vehicle. Your BMW center can cancel the electronic system authorization for individual keys (in the event of loss, for instance). A deactivated key can no longer be used to start the engine.

### How the electronics work

At the heart of this system is an electronic chip that is integrated into the key. The lock mechanism itself is actually a dual-function device, simultaneously serving as a communications interface designed to allow the security system to maintain a continuous stream of variable, vehicle-specific signals with the electronic circuitry in the key. The system will not release the ignition, fuel injection and starter unless it recognizes an "authorized" key.

▶ Force applied to the key can damage the integrated electronic circuitry. A damaged key can no longer be used to start the engine. ◀

### The concept

The following can be unlocked or locked simultaneously with the central locking system:

- ▶ Doors
- ▶ Luggage compartment lid
- ▶ Fuel filler door
- ▶ Glove compartment.

The central locking system is ready for operation whenever the driver's door is closed.

The central locking system can be operated

- ▶ from outside via the door lock and using the remote control
- ▶ from inside by pressing a button.

If it is operated from inside, the fuel filler door will not be locked (refer to page 38).

If it is operated from outside, the anti-theft protection is activated at the same time. This prevents the doors from being unlocked via the locking buttons or the door handles. The alarm system is also activated or deactivated.

## 34 Central locking system

Information for your safety:

If locked from the inside, the central locking system unlocks automatically in the event of an accident. In addition, the hazard warning flashers and interior lamps come on.

## Opening and closing – via the door lock



### Using the key

Turn the key once to unlock the driver's door, the fuel filler door and the glove compartment.

Turn it a second time to release the locks for the passenger-side door and the luggage compartment lid.



You can have a signal set to confirm that the vehicle's locks have engaged securely. ◀

For further details on the alarm system\*, refer to page [42](#).

### Convenience operation

With the door closed, you can also operate the electric windows and the convertible top via the door lock.

To open: after turning the key a second time, hold it in place in the "unlock" position.

To close: hold the key in the "lock" position.



Watch during the closing process to make sure that nobody is injured accidentally. Releasing the key stops the operation. ◀

### Manual operation

(in the event of electrical malfunction)

Turn the key all the way to the extreme left or right to unlock/lock the door.

# Opening and closing – via the remote control

## The concept

The remote control gives you an exceptionally convenient method for unlocking and locking your vehicle. Furthermore, it provides two additional functions which you can only execute via the remote control:

- ▷ Switch on the interior light. Refer to page [36](#)  
With this function, you can also "search for" your vehicle – when parked in an underground garage, for instance.
- ▷ Open the luggage compartment lid. Refer to page [37](#)  
The luggage compartment lid will open slightly, regardless of whether it was locked or unlocked.

Whenever you unlock (lock) the vehicle, you simultaneously deactivate (activate) the anti-theft system, disarm (arm) the alarm system\* and switch the interior lamps on (off).



You can have a signal set to confirm that the vehicle's locks have engaged securely. ◀



To end the alarm: press button 1 (unlock, refer to page [36](#)) or turn the ignition key to position 1. For further details on the alarm system\*, refer to page [42](#). ◀

## Master key with remote control



Children might be able to lock the doors from the inside. For this reason, always take the vehicle keys with you so that the vehicle can be opened again from the outside at any time. ◀



Master keys with remote control that are used repeatedly are always ready for operation since the battery in the key is charged automatically in the ignition lock as you drive. If it is no longer possible to unlock the vehicle via the remote control, the battery is discharged. Use this key to drive for an extended period in order to recharge the battery. Refer also to page [32](#).

Guard the remote control against unauthorized use by only surrendering the spare key or the door key (refer to page [32](#)), for valet parking, for instance. In the event of a system malfunction, please contact your BMW center. You can also obtain replacement keys there. ◀

## 36 Opening and closing – via the remote control



### To lock and secure

Press button 2.



### To unlock

Press button 1 to unlock the driver's door only.

Press the button twice to unlock the entire vehicle.



If you desire you can have this function programmed into the selected individual keys of your choice. ◀

### Switching on the interior lamps

After locking the vehicle, press button 2.

### To deactivate the tilt alarm sensor\* and interior motion sensor\*

Press button 2 a second time immediately after locking.

For additional information, refer to page [43](#).



## To open the luggage compartment lid

Press button 3.

The lid will open slightly, no matter whether it was locked or unlocked.

▶ Before and after a trip, be sure that the luggage compartment lid has not been opened unintentionally. ◀

## Panic mode (trigger alarm)

By pressing button 3 for more than 2 seconds, the alarm can be sounded in the event of danger, if it is armed. The alarm is switched off after button 1 is pressed.

## Non-BMW systems

External systems or devices may cause local interference in the functions of the remote control.

If this should occur, you can still open and close the vehicle using the master key in both the door and luggage compartment lid locks.

## For US owners only

The transmitter and receiver units comply with part 15 of the FCC (Federal Communication Commission) regulations. Operation is governed by the following:

FCC ID: LX8EWS  
LX8FZVS  
LX8FZVE

Compliance statement:


This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- ▶ This device may not cause harmful interference, and
- ▶ this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

▶ Any unauthorized modifications or changes to these devices could void the user's authority to operate this equipment. ◀



Use this button to operate the central locking system whenever the doors are closed. The doors and luggage compartment lid are unlocked or locked only. The anti-theft alarm system is not activated.

 When you open the driver's door after unlocking it from the outside, you can press the button to unlock the passenger door, luggage compartment lid, fuel filler door and glove compartment.

When the driver's door is closed, this same action relocks it. ◀



If you desire, the central locking system will secure the locks as soon as you start to drive. You can have this function programmed into each individual key. ◀

### To unlock and open the doors

- ▷ Either unlock the doors together with the button for the central locking system and then pull each of the release handles above the armrests or
- ▷ pull the release handle for each door twice: the first pull unlocks the door, and the second one opens it.

### To engage the locks

- ▷ Either use the central locking button to lock all doors at once, or
- ▷ press the individual safety lock buttons down. As an added design feature to prevent the driver from being inadvertently locked out of the vehicle, the driver's door safety lock button will not engage as long as the door is open.



Children might be able to lock the doors from the inside. For this reason, always take the vehicle's keys with you so that the vehicle can be opened again from the outside at any time. ◀



## The lock

Only the master keys (refer to page 32) fit in the lock for the luggage compartment lid.

## To secure separately

Lock the glove compartment using the master key.

This also locks the luggage compartment lid and disconnects it from the central locking system. If you surrender only the door key (refer to page 32), this will prevent unauthorized access via the luggage compartment lid, for valet parking, for instance.

## Opening from outside

Press the button in the handle recess (arrow):  
The luggage compartment lid opens slightly.

The luggage compartment is lit when the luggage compartment lid is opened.

## Manual operation

(in the event of electrical malfunction)  
Turn the master key to the right as far as it will go, the luggage compartment lid will open slightly.

The luggage compartment is locked again as soon as you close the lid.

## Opening from the inside


If the luggage compartment lid has not been locked separately, you can open it with this button in the footwell on the driver's side when the vehicle is stationary.


## 40 Luggage compartment lid



### Closing

The handle recesses in the interior trim panel of the luggage compartment lid (arrows) make it easier to pull the lid down.

 To avoid injuries, be sure that the travel path of the luggage compartment lid is clear when it is closed, as with all closing procedures. ◀

 Do not drive with the luggage compartment lid open, since exhaust fumes could penetrate the interior of the vehicle. Nevertheless, should it be absolutely necessary to operate the vehicle with the luggage compartment lid open (with closed convertible top):

- ▷ Close all windows
- ▷ Increase the airflow of the automatic climate control to a high level. Refer to page 88. ◀

## Luggage compartment

The fittings at the inner corners of the luggage compartment provide you with a convenient means of attaching luggage nets\* and flexible straps for securing suitcases and luggage.

Refer also to "Cargo loading" on page 100.




## Fold up the floor panel and attach

- 1 Grab handle and pull up
- 2 Press the button (arrow) to release the attachment fitting from the handle



- 3 Hook the attachment fitting to the rubber weatherstrip (arrow).

 Carefully replace the hanger in its holder when lowering the floor panel back into place. ◀



## Enlarging the luggage compartment

With the convertible top closed, you can enlarge the luggage compartment. To do this, flip the handle outward and press it down and toward the front of the vehicle (arrow). The convertible top compartment base is now raised and secured.

## Folding down the convertible top compartment base

To open the convertible top the base of the convertible top compartment must be folded down. To do this, fold out the handle and pull it toward the rear of the vehicle.

## 42 Luggage compartment



When opening the convertible top, refer to page 45, make sure that the luggage compartment is set up properly, as otherwise damage may occur. ◀

## Alarm system\*

### The concept

The vehicle alarm system responds:

- ▷ When a door, the hood or the luggage compartment lid is opened
- ▷ To movement inside the vehicle (interior motion sensor)
- ▷ Altering the vehicle tilt angle, e.g. as would occur while attempting to steal the wheels or tow the vehicle (tilt alarm sensor)
- ▷ To interruption of battery voltage.

The system responds to unauthorized vehicle entry and attempted theft by simultaneously activating the following:

- ▷ Sounding an acoustical alarm for 30 seconds
- ▷ The hazard warning flashers are activated for approx. five minutes
- ▷ The high beams flash on and off in the same rhythm.

### To activate and deactivate the alarm system

When the vehicle is locked or unlocked by using a key or with the remote control, the alarm system is also simultaneously armed or disarmed.

The interior motion sensor is activated approx. 30 seconds after you have locked the vehicle.

If the alarm system has been armed correctly, the hazard warning flashers flash once.



You can have a signal set as acknowledgment for both setting and deactivating the alarm. ◀

You can also open the luggage compartment lid when the system is armed by pressing button 3 of the remote control (refer to page 37). When it is closed, the lid is once again secured.

## Alarm system\*



### Indicator lamp displays

The indicator lamp is located under the interior rearview mirror.

- ▷ When the indicator lamp flashes continuously: the system is armed
- ▷ If the indicator lamp flashes while the system is being set: the door(s), the hood or luggage compartment lid are not completely closed. Even if you do not close the alerted area, the remaining areas are deadlocked, and the indicator lamp flashes continuously after 10 seconds. However, the interior motion sensor is not activated
- ▷ If the indicator lamp goes out when the system is disarmed: no manipulation or attempted intrusions have been detected in the period since the system was armed

- ▷ If the indicator lamp flashes for 10 seconds when the system is disarmed: an attempted entry has been detected in the period since the system was armed.

Following triggering of an alarm, the indicator lamp will flash continuously.

### Avoiding unintentional alarms

The tilt alarm sensor and interior motion sensor may be switched off at the same time. You can do this to prevent any unwanted alarm, e.g. in garages with elevator ramps or when the vehicle is being transported on car trains:

Lock the vehicle twice (= setting the alarm): press button 2 on the remote control twice in succession or lock the vehicle twice with the key. Refer to page 36.

The indicator lamp lights up briefly and then flashes continuously. The tilt alarm sensor and the interior motion sensor are deactivated as long as the system is armed. Reset the alarm to reactivate the tilt alarm sensor and the interior motion sensor.

### Interior motion sensor

Transmitter and receiver for the interior motion sensor are located in the front part of the center console, invisible to the driver, and in the back part of the center console under a rack.

However, be sure to deactivate the interior motion sensor (see previous column) if children or animals are to remain in the vehicle.

## 44 Alarm system\*

### For US owners only


The transmitter and receiver units comply with part 15 of the FCC (Federal Communication Commission) regulations. Operation is governed by the following:

FCC ID: LTQSDR2G5

Compliance statement:

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- ▷ This device may not cause harmful interference, and
- ▷ this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

 Any unauthorized modifications to these devices could void the user's authority to operate the equipment. ◀

## Electric power windows



Remove the key from the ignition lock and close the doors when you leave the vehicle, so that children cannot operate the power windows and possibly injure themselves. ◀

To use the convenience mode via the door lock, refer to page [34](#).

### To open and close windows

From ignition key position 1:

After the ignition has been switched off: You can still use the electric power windows for up to 15 minutes, as long as no one opens any of the doors.

To open:

- ▷ Press the switch up to but not past the resistance point: the window will continue to lower as long as you continue to hold the switch
- ▷ Press the switch briefly past the resistance point: the window moves automatically. Tapping the switch again stops the opening cycle.

To close: you can close the windows in the same manner by pulling the switch.



### Operating all the side windows

From ignition key position 1:

To open:

- ▷ Press the switch up to but not past the resistance point:  
All windows will continue to lower as long as you continue to press the switch
- ▷ Press the switch briefly past the resistance point:  
All windows will move automatically. Pressing the switch again stops the opening cycle.

To close: you can close all windows in the same manner by pulling the switch.

The fully automatic convertible top combines assured protection from the weather together with simple and easy handling.

So that you will get the most out of your convertible, here are a few tips:

- ▷ It is advisable to close the convertible top when the vehicle is being parked. The closed convertible top not only protects the passenger compartment from unforeseeable damage from the weather, it also provides a certain degree of theft protection. In addition, keep valuables only in the locked luggage compartment, even with the convertible top closed.
- ▷ Never mount a roof-mounted luggage rack on the convertible top.
- ▷ At temperatures below 15 °F (-10 °C) do not open or close the convertible top to prevent damage.



Never store the convertible top while it is wet to avoid permanent damage from moisture. ◀



Driving the vehicle before the top has opened or closed completely can lead to vehicle damage and/or personal injury.

Whenever possible, always ensure that the vehicle remains stationary for the entire duration of the opening/closing process. Setting the vehicle in motion before the process is completed may cause the top to stop moving prematurely.

If you initiated convertible top operation while the vehicle was standing still, and then started to drive off, at a traffic light, for example, you can complete the process while traveling at a moderate rate of speed. To do this, keep pressing the proper button.

Traffic laws applicable in your area take precedence when you operate the convertible top, however, otherwise you may be breaking the law.


Before closing the convertible top, remove any objects from the windshield frame that could keep the convertible top from closing properly.


Do not lay objects on the convertible top, since they would fall off when the convertible top is operated and cause damage or injuries.

Do not reach into the convertible top mechanism during opening and closing.

## 46 Convertible top

Keep children away from the travel path of the convertible top while it is in motion. ◀

 To close the electric power windows while driving, always be sure to first close either the rear windows, or all 4 windows at the same time, otherwise, at high speed, the windows may not close tightly. ◀

 At higher speeds, the ensuing vacuum in the passenger compartment can cause the convertible top to begin fluttering. Increase the air supply via the ventilation controls so that a vacuum does not occur in the vehicle. ◀



- 1 Closing
- 2 Opening

### Opening and closing


With ignition key in position 1 or 2 and the vehicle stationary.

To avoid discharging the battery, when possible you should start the engine before opening or closing the top.


- 1 Observe the preceding safety precautions.
- 2 Before opening the convertible top, make sure that the base of the convertible top compartment in the luggage compartment is folded down. Refer to page 41.
- 3 Make sure the luggage compartment lid is closed.

4 Press and hold the corresponding button for convertible top operation. The red indicator lamp will light up while the convertible top is in motion. It goes out as soon as the opening or closing operation is completed. If the red indicator lamp flashes when you release the button, this indicates that the top has not completely finished opening or closing. You can press the corresponding button to resume the process in the desired direction.

If the yellow indicator lamp remains on while you are pressing the button, this indicates that the convertible top compartment's lower panel has been folded up and the top cannot be moved, refer to step 2.


 The automatic sequence will be interrupted immediately if you release the button that operates the top. The sequence can be continued in the desired direction by pressing this button. ◀


## Convertible top


 During convertible top operation the rear window moves toward the passenger compartment and presses the heads of the rear passengers slightly forward. As a rule, this is not dangerous. To avoid possibly being pinched, passengers in the back seat should lean their heads slightly forward while the convertible top is in motion. ◀

The side windows move downward somewhat when the button for convertible top operation is pressed, and then up again after the opening or closing operation is completed if you continue to hold the button for longer than 2 seconds after the indicator lamp goes out.

During convertible top operation the luggage compartment lid cannot be opened.

 Do not close the side power windows using the buttons if the convertible top has been interrupted while in motion. ◀

 If the convertible top has been stored in the convertible top compartment for longer periods, e.g. during the winter months while the hardtop is being used, it may be necessary to manually support the first automatic closing operation: if the convertible top should halt just before the closing phase is completed, press against the front part of the convertible top frame from the outside to help the closing process along. Keep pressing the button while doing so until the top starts up again on its own. ◀


 If the opening or closing operation is interrupted, the convertible top remains in the respective position for 15 minutes, and the process can be continued in the desired direction with the button. Then the convertible top can be moved and operated manually, refer to page 162. This is also possible in ignition key position 0. In certain cases, the luggage compartment lid cannot be opened if the opening or closing operation has been interrupted. ◀

### One-touch operation from the driver side door lock

Refer to page 34.

## 48 Seat adjustment

For your personal safety when adjusting the seat position, please follow the instructions below carefully:


 Never try to adjust your seat while driving the vehicle. The seat could respond with an unexpected movement, and the ensuing loss of vehicle control could lead to an accident. Be sure that the safety belt remains firmly against your body at all times. In the event of a frontal impact, a loose lap belt could slide over the hips, leading to abdominal injury. In addition, the safety belt's restraint effectiveness is reduced if the belt is worn loosely. Never ride with the backrest reclined to an extreme angle (especially important for the front passenger to remember). If you do so, there is a risk that you will slide under the safety belt in an accident, thus reducing the protection provided by the safety belt. ◀

### Correct sitting posture

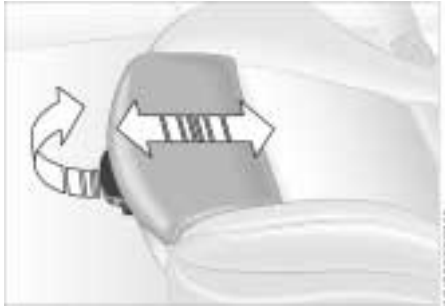
To reduce strain on the spinal column, sit all the way back in the seat and rest your back fully against the backrest. The ideal sitting posture is achieved with your head extending from your spine in a straight line. For long-distance driving, you may wish to increase the backrest tilt angle slightly to reduce muscular tension. You should be able to grasp the steering wheel at its highest point with your arms slightly bent.



- 1 Tilt angle
- 2 Backward/Forward adjustment
- 3 Cushion height
- 4 Backrest angle

 Comply with the preceding adjustment instructions, as otherwise personal safety will be diminished. ◀

## Seat adjustment



### Thigh support

Pull the lever and adjust the position of the cushion for thigh support as desired.



### Lumbar support\*

You can adjust the backrest's contour for additional support in the curvature of your spine's lumbar region.


The upper hips and spinal column receive supplementary support to help you maintain a relaxed, upright posture.

- ▷ Increase/decrease curvature:  
Press the front/rear of the switch
- ▷ Increase the upper/lower curvature:  
Press the upper/lower end of the switch.



### Head restraints – front

#### 1 Height


 Head restraints can reduce the risk of injury to the neck and spinal column in the event of an accident. Adjust the head restraint so that its center is approximately at the height of your ears.

To guard against injuries, avoid placing your hands and fingers between the head restraint and the backrest while adjusting. ◀

#### 2 Tilt angle

Position the head restraint in the preferred position.

### Head restraints – rear


 The rear head restraints may only be lowered when there are no passengers in the rear, as otherwise laws may be violated. Raise the rear head restraints before taking on any passengers in the back. ◀

To completely lower the rear head restraints:


- 1 Press the button (arrow) and hold it down
- 2 Push the head restraint down from above.

To extend the rear head restraints: raise the head restraints until you hear them click into place.

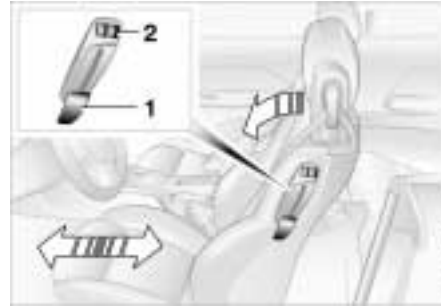
## Head restraints

 Do not remove the rear head restraints as this would damage them. ◀

For further information, please consult your BMW center.


 Do not use the rear head restraints as storage shelves. Always keep the travel path clear for the rollover protection system. Never attach any type of protective coverings to the head restraints (refer also to the labeling on the head restraints). ◀


## Entering the rear



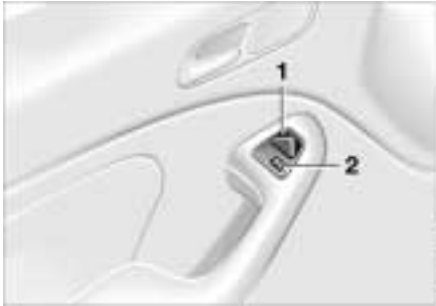
The seat-integrated safety belt system (SGS) ensures easier entry in the rear.

- 1 Lift lever 1 up and tilt the backrest forward
- 2 Press and hold down button 2 in the direction of travel until the seat has moved into the desired position
- 3 Fold back and lock the backrest after entering the rear
- 4 Press and hold button 2 against the direction of travel. The seat moves back into its previous position. If you release button 2 beforehand, the seat will stop in its current position.

 You can lock a backrest that has been tilted forward. This makes sense when, for instance, someone is climbing into the rear on an incline. To do this, press against the backrest until you hear it click into place. To move it back into place, you do not need to unlock it first by moving lever 1. ◀

 Lock both backrests while driving, otherwise there is a danger of an unexpected movement causing an accident. ◀

The indicator lamp in the instrument cluster flashes when the backrest is not locked, refer to page 21.



### Exterior mirrors

- 1 Switch for 4-way adjustment
- 2 Selection switch for changing between mirrors

You can also adjust the mirrors manually by pressing against the outer edges of their lenses.



The mirror on the passenger's side features a lens with a more convex surface than the mirror installed on the driver's side. When estimating the distance between yourself and other traffic, bear in mind that the objects reflected in the mirror are closer than they appear. Estimates of the distance to following traffic should therefore not be regarded as precise. ◀

### Electric defrosting\*

Both mirrors are automatically defrosted with the ignition key in position 2.

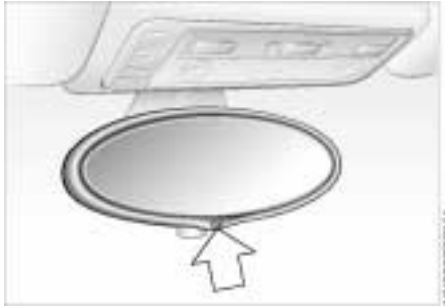


### Passenger side exterior mirror tilt function

(automatic curb monitor)

Move the mirror selector switch 1 to the "driver's mirror" position. When reverse gear is engaged, the passenger side mirror tilts downward. This allows the driver to see the area directly adjacent to the vehicle during parking (curbs, etc.).

You can deactivate this automatic feature: set the mirror selection switch to the "passenger mirror" position.



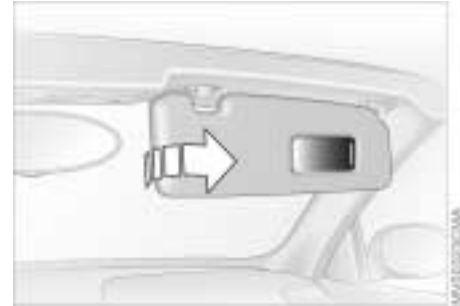
For the mirror to function perfectly, keep the photocells clean and the area between the inside rearview mirror and the windshield free of any obstructions, such as stickers, etc.

## Interior rearview mirror with automatic dimming feature

By responding to the effects of ambient light and the glare from following traffic, this mirror automatically dims through an infinitely variable range.

The mirror switches to its clear, undimmed mode whenever you shift into reverse.

There are two photocells for automatic dimming. One photocell (arrow) is positioned in the mirror's glass, while the other is slightly offset on the opposite side of the mirror. For an explanation of the electrochromic technology used in this mirror, refer to page [173](#).



## Sun visors


These can be folded down toward the windshield or swiveled out against the side windows.

## Vanity mirrors

Fold down the sun visor and slide the cover panel to the side as required.



You can store and recall three different driver's seat and outside mirror positions.

 Memory will not retain the adjustments made to the lumbar supports. ◀


If you press the **MEMORY** button accidentally: press the button again; the indicator lamp goes out.

### To store

- 1 Turn the key to ignition key position 1 or 2.
- 2 Adjust your seat and outside mirrors to the desired position.
- 3 Press the **MEMORY** button: the indicator lamp in the button lights up.

- 4 Press memory button 1, 2 or 3, as desired: indicator lamp goes out.

### To select a stored setting

 Do not select a memory position while the vehicle is moving. If you do so, there is a risk of accident from unexpected seat movement. ◀


Convenience function:


- 1 The driver's door is open after unlocking or the ignition key is in position 1.
- 2 Briefly press memory button 1, 2 or 3, as desired.

Movement stops immediately when one of the seat-adjustment or memory buttons is activated during the adjustment process.

Security function:


- 1 The driver's door is closed and the ignition key is either removed or in position 0 or 2.
- 2 Press and hold the desired memory button 1, 2 or 3 until the adjustment process is completed.

 Your BMW center can adjust your vehicle's systems in such a manner that your personalized settings are automatically set for the seat and outside mirror positions when you unlock the vehicle with your personal remote control. ◀

 If you make use of this method of adjustment, be sure that the footwell behind the driver's seat is unobstructed before unlocking the vehicle. If you fail to do so, any persons or objects behind the seat could be injured or damaged by rearward movement of the seat. ◀



- 1 Push the locking lever downward.
- 2 Adjust the steering wheel (forward/back and up/down) to the desired position.
- 3 Pull the lever back in to clamp the steering wheel in the new position.

 Do not adjust the steering wheel while the vehicle is moving, otherwise you run the risk of an accident occurring due to unexpected movement. ◀

## How the system functions

You have probably frequently wished that you could configure individual functions of your vehicle to reflect your own personal requirements. In engineering your vehicle, BMW has included several user-defined functions in the vehicle's design. Your BMW center can program these settings for you in accordance with your wishes.

There are settings related to the vehicle ("Car Memory") and settings related to individuals ("Key Memory"). You can have up to four different basic settings adjusted for four different persons. The only requirement is that each person uses his or her own master key with remote control.

When your vehicle is unlocked with the remote control, the vehicle recognizes the individual user by means of a data exchange with the key, and makes adjustments accordingly.

In order for you to distinguish between different keys, colored decals are supplied together with the keys.

## What the system can do

Your BMW center can provide you with details on the possibilities that the Car Memory and Key Memory systems offer.

Examples for Car Memory:

- ▷ Various signals that can serve as acknowledgment for locking and unlocking the vehicle, refer to pages [34](#), [35](#)
- ▷ Activating/deactivating operation of "Follow-me-home lamps", refer to page [84](#)
- ▷ Activating/deactivating daylight driving lamps\*, refer to page [84](#)
- ▷ Setting the units of measure to indicate outside temperature and distance traveled on the instrument cluster, refer to page [18](#).

## 56 Car Memory, Key Memory


Examples for Key Memory:

- ▷ Locking the vehicle after driving off, refer to page [38](#)
- ▷ Unlocking and simultaneously lowering the driver's window, refer to page [36](#)
- ▷ Automatically moving the seat and outside mirror into position for that particular person when unlocking the vehicle, refer to page [54](#)
- ▷ Calling up customized settings for the automatic climate control when unlocking using the remote control, refer to page [90](#).



You will see this symbol throughout the Owner's Manual. It is to remind you at appropriate places of the settings that are available to you. ◀

## Safety belts


 If the safety belt system has been subjected to the stresses involved in an accident or otherwise damaged: have the entire safety belt mechanism replaced by your BMW center, including the safety belt tensioner. In addition, have your BMW center inspect the safety belt anchors. If a child restraint system was in the vehicle during an accident, consult the manufacturer's instructions regarding replacement. ◀

For care instructions, refer to page [135](#).




### Drive with your safety belt on

Fasten your safety belt before starting off.

 Before putting your safety belts on in the rear, take them out of the holder. ◀

To fasten: make sure you hear the catch engage in the belt buckle.

To release: press the red button in the buckle. Hold the belt and guide it back into its reel.

 For your safety, comply with the following instructions for wearing safety belts. If you do not, the safety belts may not be able to provide their maximum protection. The following information also applies to your passengers:

Never allow more than one person to wear a single safety belt. Never allow infants or small children to ride in a passenger's lap.

Untwist the safety belt before putting it on, and wear it so that it lies as snugly as possible over your abdomen and shoulder, and do not let it rub against any hard or fragile objects. Never route the belt across your neck, do not run it across sharp edges and ensure that the belt does not become caught or jammed.

Avoid wearing bulky clothing and pull on the belt periodically to re-tension it over your shoulders. In the event of a frontal impact, a loose lap belt could slide over your hips, leading to abdominal injury. In addition, the safety belt's restraint effectiveness is reduced if the belt is worn loosely.


Expectant mothers should always wear their safety belts, taking care to position the lap belt against the lower hips,

where it will not exert pressure against the abdominal area.

Leave the rear safety belts in the holders, if they are not needed, to avoid unwanted movement from the safety belts at high speeds. ◀


### Safety belt height adjustment

The front safety belts automatically adjust to your height based on the height adjustment of the head restraints, refer to page 51.

 If the safety belt system has been subjected to the stresses involved in an accident or otherwise damaged: have the entire safety belt mechanism replaced by your BMW center, including the safety belt tensioner. In addition, have your BMW center inspect the safety belt anchors. If a child restraint system was in the vehicle during an accident, consult the manufacturer's instructions regarding replacement. ◀

## Transporting children safely

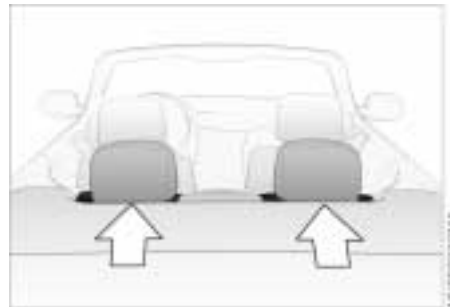
### Child restraint systems\*

 Never install a rearward-facing child restraint device in the front passenger's seat. If the airbag is triggered, any child in a rear-facing restraint located within the airbag's deployment range could sustain serious injuries.

Children should always travel in the rear seats, where they should be secured in a suitable child restraint device attached to the safety belts in the outboard positions.

Do not use the center belts to secure a child restraint unless the two outboard positions are already occupied, and a third safety seat is needed.

Never attempt to modify or change a child restraint device in any way, as tampering could reduce the protection it provides in an accident. ◀



Commercially available child seats complying with the legal standard are designed to be secured with a lap belt or with the lap belt portion of a combination lap/shoulder belt. Improperly or inadequately installed restraint systems can increase the risk of injury to children. Always read and follow the instructions that come with the system.

If you use a child restraint system with a tether strap, two additional tether anchorage points (refer to the arrows in the illustration) have been provided.


They are located under the convertible top compartment lid.

Depending on the location selected for seating in the rear passenger area, attach the tether strap to the corresponding anchorage point to secure the child restraint system.

## Transporting children safely

Lift the head restraint and pass the tether strap between the headrest and the seat back.

Adjust the tether strap according to the child restraint manufacturer's instructions.

 Before installing any child restraint device or child seat, please read the following:

Never install a rear-facing child restraint system in the front passenger seat of this vehicle.

Your vehicle is equipped with an airbag supplemental restraint system for the front passenger. Because the backrest on any rear-facing child restraint system (of the kind designed for infants under 1 year and 20 - 30 lbs/9 - 14 kg) would be within the airbag's deployment range, you should never mount such a device in the front passenger seat, as the impact of the airbag against the child restraint's backrest could lead to serious or fatal injuries.

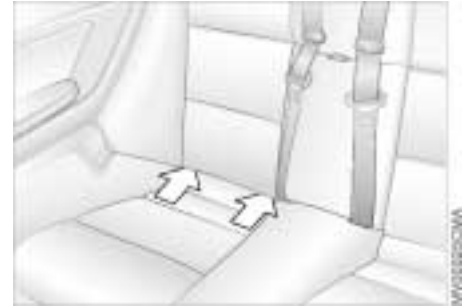
If it is necessary for a child (not an infant) to ride in the front seat, certain precautions should be taken. First, move the passenger seat as far away from the dashboard as possible. This important precaution is intended to maximize the distance between the

airbag and the child. Older children should be tightly secured with the safety belt.

Younger children should be secured in an appropriate forward-facing child restraint system that has first been properly secured with a safety belt. Never install a rear-facing child restraint system in the front passenger seat. We strongly urge you to carefully read and comply with the instructions for installation and use provided by the child restraint's manufacturer whenever you use such a device.

Always ensure that all occupants (of all ages) remain properly and securely restrained at all times. ◀


All rear seating positions in your vehicle meet the recommendations of SAE J1819, an industry recommended standard for securing child restraint systems in motor vehicles.




### LATCH attachment for child seat

The brackets for the LATCH child restraint system are not visible from the outside and are located at the points marked with the arrows.

Carefully press the brackets through the seam between backrest and seat upholstery at the locations indicated.

 To mount the LATCH child restraint system, please follow the manufacturer's operating and safety precautions. ◀

 Leave the rear safety belts in the holders, if they are not needed, to avoid unwanted movement from the safety belts at high speeds. ◀

## 60 Transporting children safely



### To lock the safety belt

Extract the entire length of the belt from the inertia reel mechanism. Allow the reel to retract the belt somewhat and engage the buckle, then tighten the belt against the child restraint system. The retraction mechanism is now locked. The belt cannot be extracted further. Always comply with the installation instructions provided by the manufacturer of the child restraint system.

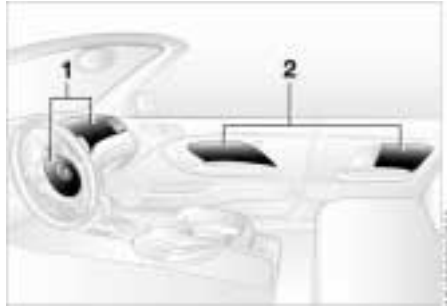
### To unlock the safety belt

Release the safety belt, remove the child's seat and retract the safety belt to its end position on the belt retractor.

### Child seat security

All of the rear belt retractors and the front passenger's safety belt can be locked for mounting and securing child restraint systems.

A label with the appropriate instructions for this is located in the immediate vicinity of the buckle latch of each safety belt.



- 1 Front airbags on the driver and front passenger side
- 2 Side airbags on the driver and passenger sides (front and rear\*)

## Protective effect

The front airbags help protect the driver and passenger in the event of a head-on collision where the protection provided by the safety belt alone would not be adequate. The side airbags help provide protection in the event of a collision from the side. Each of the side airbags is designed to help support the occupant's upper body.



▶ The side airbags in the rear passenger area\* of your vehicle may already have been deactivated either at the time of manufacture or by a BMW center. You may have them activated if you desire to do so. Please contact your BMW center for additional information. ◀

The illustration depicts schematically the primary directions of vehicle impact that initiate airbag deployment.

▶ The airbags will not be triggered in the event of a minor accident, a vehicle rollover, or collisions from the rear. ◀

## Functional status



The indicator lamp in the instrument cluster shows the airbag system's functional status starting from ignition key position 1.

System operational:

▶ The indicator lamp comes on briefly then goes out.

System malfunction:

- ▶ The indicator lamp fails to come on
- ▶ The indicator lamp comes on briefly before going out and then lighting up again.


A system malfunction could prevent the system from responding to an impact occurring within its normal response range.

Please have your BMW center inspect the system as soon as possible.



The airbag indicator lamp also comes on if the safety belt tensioners have been triggered. ◀

**Sitting correctly with airbags**

 For your safety, comply with the following instructions for the airbags. If you do not, the airbags may not be able to provide their maximum protection. All passengers in the vehicle should be aware of and comply with this information:

The airbags are supplemental restraint devices designed to provide extra protection; they are not a substitute for safety belts. Wear your safety belt at all times. The airbags will not be triggered in the event of a minor accident, a vehicle rollover, or collisions from the rear. In these instances, the safety belt provides optimal protection.

Airbags are located under cover panels in the steering wheel, in the instrument panel and in the side trim panels in the front and rear\*.

Adjust your seat to a position that provides maximum distance between you and the steering wheel, the instrument panel and the door while still allowing comfortable and safe access to all vehicle controls.

To avoid sustaining hand and arm injuries, always grasp the steering wheel on the rim with the hands at the 9 and 3 o'clock positions. Do not place your hands on the center pad.

Never allow any objects to obstruct the area between the airbag and an occupant.

Do not use the cover panel above the passenger side airbag as a storage area.

Do not apply adhesive materials to the cover panels of the airbags, cover them or modify them in any other way.

Do not install a rear-facing child restraint system in the front passenger seat of this vehicle.

Children under 13 years of age and children less than 5 feet (150 cm) tall should ride only in the rear seat.

Infants or small children should never be held on the lap of a passenger.

If your vehicle is equipped with side airbags in the rear passenger area\*, be sure that child restraints are mounted correctly and provided with the greatest-possible distance between the airbags in the side trim panels. Do not allow children to lean out of the child's seat in the direction of the side trim panels. If they do so, serious injuries can occur if the airbag is triggered. ◀



At all times, occupants should sit upright and be properly restrained (infants and small children in appropriate child restraint systems; larger children and adults using the safety belts). Never let an occupant's head rest near or on a side airbag because the inflating airbag could cause a serious or fatal injury. Please note that the word "Airbag" imprinted on the door trim panel indicates the airbag's location.

Accident research shows that the safest place for children in an automobile is in the rear seat. However, a child sitting in the rear seat and not properly restrained may place his or her head on or near the airbag, if so equipped. For example, a child – even though belted – may fall asleep with his or her head against the side airbag. It may be difficult for a driver to ensure that children in the rear seat will remain properly positioned at all times and not place their heads on or near the side airbag. Therefore, we recommend that the rear seat side airbags, if so equipped, be deactivated if children will travel in the rear seat.

The rear seat side airbags may already have been deactivated, either at the time of manufacture or by a BMW

## Airbags

center. Labels in the door opening should indicate the status of your rear seat side airbags. If you are uncertain of their status, or wish to have the airbags activated or deactivated, please contact your BMW center. ◀

Even when all these guidelines are observed, there is still a small residual risk of injuries to the face, hands and arms occurring in isolated instances. The ignition and inflation noise may induce a mild temporary hearing loss in sensitive individuals.

For additional information concerning the airbag system, refer to pages [139](#) and [168](#).



This is the right way for a child to sit in a child restraint when rear side airbags (arrow) are provided.




This is the right way for a larger child to sit wearing the safety belt when rear side airbags (arrow) are provided.

## 64 Rollover protection system

In the event of an accident or some other critical driving situation (extreme tilting in the longitudinal or transverse axis, loss of contact with the ground), the rollover protection system will be automatically activated. The protective bars located in the rear head restraints extend upward within fractions of a second.

In addition to the integrated rollover bar in the windshield frame, the rollover protection system can help provide all the vehicle occupants with necessary headroom in certain rollover accidents.

 Always keep the travel path clear for the rollover protection system. Never attach any type of protective coverings to the head restraints. In the event of less serious accidents, the safety belt will protect you and, depending on the nature and severity of the accident, the safety belt tensioner and the multi-stage airbag restraint system will as well. ◀



If, after being automatically triggered, the protective function is not needed, then the rollover protection system can be lowered back into place. No special tool is needed for this.

1 Using a screwdriver from the on-board tool kit, remove the cover panel; to do this, position the screwdriver under the notch (arrow)

2 Pull up on the lever (arrow) toward the front of the vehicle and keep it in this position



- 3 Keep pressing down on the protective bar 1 from above until you hear it click into place
- 4 Put the cover panel back in place, and press down firmly
- 5 Press the rear part of the head restraint 2 closed.

Do the same for the second protective bar. If you are not familiar with any of the procedures, consult your BMW center.

Have the rollover protection system checked by your BMW center after it has been inadvertently triggered.



Do not move the convertible top under any circumstances if the rollover protection system has deployed.

Do not use the rear head restraints as storage shelves.

Absolutely no modifications are to be made to any of the rollover protection system's individual components or any of its wiring.

Only your BMW center is authorized to carry out any work on the rollover protection system.

Work done on the system that is carried out improperly could lead to failure in an emergency or inadvertent triggering. Regarding having the system checked to ensure long-term operation: be scrupulous in adhering to the Service Interval Display for maintenance intervals. The rollover protection system must be checked by a BMW center at least every 2 years. ◀



You will find that it is often easier to turn the ignition key from position 0 to position 1 when you move the steering wheel slightly to help disengage the lock.

### **Ignition switched on**

All electrical equipment and accessories are available for use.

- 0 Steering locked
- 1 Steering unlocked
- 2 Ignition switched on
- 3 Starting the engine

### **Steering locked**

The key can be inserted and removed in this position only.

To lock the steering column after you have taken the key out, turn the steering wheel until you hear it lock.

### **Steering unlocked**

Individual electrical accessories are ready for operation.

## **Starting the engine**

- 1 Engage the parking brake
- 2 Move the shift lever to the neutral position
- 3 Depress the clutch pedal
- 4 Turn the key to position 3 to start the engine.

Do not actuate the starter for too short a time, but not turn it for more than approx. 20 seconds. Release the ignition key immediately when the engine starts.

Do not allow the engine to warm up by leaving it running while the vehicle remains stationary. Instead, drive off immediately at a moderate engine speed.



Do not run the engine in enclosed areas. The exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, an odorless and colorless, but highly toxic gas.

Breathing the exhaust gases poses an extreme health risk, and can lead to unconsciousness and death.

Do not leave the vehicle unattended with the engine running. An unattended vehicle with a running engine represents a potential safety hazard. ◀

## Starting the engine

If the engine does not start on the first attempt (if it is very hot or cold, for instance):

- ▷ Press the accelerator pedal halfway down while engaging the starter.

Cold starts at very low temperatures, starting at approx. 5 °F (-15 °C) and at high altitudes (over 1,000 meters):

- ▷ On the first start attempt, engage the starter for a longer period (approx. 10 seconds)
- ▷ Press the accelerator pedal halfway down while engaging the starter.

Engine idle speed is controlled by the engine computer system. Increased speeds at startup are normal and should decrease as the engine warms up. If engine speed does not decrease, service is required.

To prevent the battery from discharging, always deactivate electrical devices that are not in use. Switch the ignition off when the vehicle is not being driven.

## Switching off the engine

Turn the ignition key to position 1 or 0.



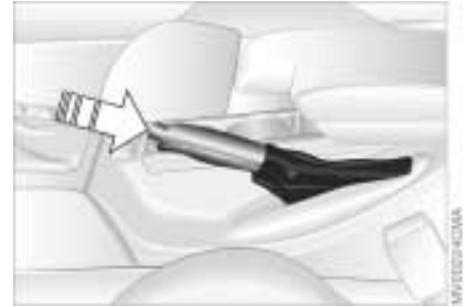
Do not remove the ignition key while the vehicle is still moving. If you did so, the steering lock would engage when the steering wheel is turned.

When you leave the vehicle, always remove the ignition key and engage the steering lock.

Set the parking brake when parking on steep hills, because under certain conditions, putting the vehicle into first or reverse gear may not be enough to prevent it from rolling away.

The power assist is not available when the engine is not on. This means that more effort is required for braking. ◀

## Parking brake



The parking brake is designed primarily to prevent the vehicle from rolling when it is parked. It operates against the rear wheels.

### To engage

The lever engages automatically, the indicator lamp in the instrument cluster comes on when the ignition key is in position 2. Refer to page 21.

### To release

Pull up slightly on the lever, press the button (arrow) and lower the lever.



If, in exceptional circumstances, it should be necessary to engage the parking brake while the vehicle is in motion, do not pull the lever with

## 68 Parking brake

excessive pressure. Keep your thumb pressed against the release button while carefully pulling up the lever to apply moderate pressure. Excessive pressure can lead to over-braking and loss of traction (fishtailing) at the rear axle.

The brake lamps do not come on when the parking brake is engaged.

Set the parking brake when parking on steep hills, because under certain conditions, putting the vehicle into first or reverse gear may not be enough to prevent it from rolling away. ◀


To avoid corrosion and one-sided braking, apply the parking brake lightly from time to time when coasting to a standstill (at a traffic signal, for instance), provided that it is safe to do so.

## Manual transmission



The shift lever's neutral plane is located between 3rd and 4th gears.

When shifting from each gear into "Neutral," the shift lever automatically springs back to the gear lever's home position.

 When shifting gears in the 5th/6th-gear plane, be sure to press the gear lever to the right in order to prevent inadvertent selection of a gear in the 3rd/4th-gear plane.

Do not hold the vehicle in place on slopes by slipping or "riding" the clutch. Use the parking brake instead. Otherwise, riding the clutch will cause tremendous wear and tear to the clutch. ◀

### Reverse

Select only when the vehicle is stationary. Press the shift lever to the left to overcome the slight resistance.

As you do this, the backup lamps will turn on automatically when the ignition key is in position 2.


## Turn signal indicator/Headlamp flasher



- 1 High beams (blue indicator lamp)
- 2 Headlamp flasher (blue indicator lamp)
- 3 Turn signal indicator (green indicator lamp accompanied by periodic clicking sound from the relay).

### To signal briefly

Press the lever up to but not beyond the detent. It then returns to the center position when released.

 When the turn signal indicator lamp in the instrument cluster flashes and the blinker relay clicks, a turn indicator lamp has failed. ◀

## Washer/Wiper system 69



- 0 Wipers retracted
- 1 Intermittent operation or rain sensor\*
- 2 Normal wipe
- 3 Fast wipe
- 4 Brief wipe
- 5 Rotary dial for controlling the wipe interval or the sensitivity of the rain sensor\*

### Intermittent operation

(not on vehicles with rain sensor)

You can set the wipe interval at four stages with rotary dial 5. In addition, the wipe interval is varied automatically depending on road speed.

### Rain sensor\*

When the rain sensor is activated, the windshield wiper is controlled automatically, depending on the degree of wetness of the windshield (in both snow and rain). You do not have to be concerned with switching the windshield wiper on or off or adjusting the wipe interval between intermittent and full wipe. Instead, you can concentrate fully on the traffic conditions. This is especially important under adverse weather conditions.

The rain sensor is positioned on the windshield, directly ahead of the interior rearview mirror.

To activate the rain sensor:

- ▷ From ignition key position 1 and up, move the lever to position 1. The wipers travel once across the windshield, regardless of the weather
- ▷ You can leave the lever permanently in position 1. It is then only necessary to activate the rain sensor from ignition key position 1 and up. To do this give rotary dial 5 a quick turn.

To adjust the sensitivity of the rain sensor: turn rotary dial 5.

Deactivating the rain sensor: put lever in position 0.



Deactivate the rain sensor when passing through an automatic car wash. Failure to do so could result in damage caused by undesired wiper activation. ◀

### Normal wiper speed

When the vehicle is stationary, the wipers switch automatically to intermittent wipe (not on vehicles with rain sensor).

### Fast wiper speed

When the vehicle is stationary, the wipers operate at normal speed (not on vehicles with rain sensor).



0 Wipers retracted

1 Clean the windshield

### Clean the windshield

The system sprays washer fluid against the windshield and activates the wipers for a brief period.

If you pull the lever only briefly, the system sprays washer fluid onto the windshield without activating the wipers.



Do not use the washers if there is any danger that the fluid will freeze on the windshield. If you do so, your vision could be obscured. For this reason, use an antifreeze agent. Refer to page [126](#).

## Washer/Wiper system

Do not use the washers when the reservoir is empty, since this could cause damage to the washer pump. ◀

### Clean the headlamps\*

When the vehicle's lighting system is switched on, the headlamps will also be cleaned every fifth time the automatic windshield washer is activated.

### Windshield washer jets

The windshield washer jets are warmed automatically when the ignition key is in position 2.

## Rear window defroster



### To activate

With the convertible top closed or the hardtop\* mounted, press the button: as long as the indicator lamp remains on, the rear window defroster continues at high output (rapid thaw).

After the indicator lamp goes out, the defroster continues operating at reduced power for a limited period before deactivating automatically.

### To deactivate

Press the button if the indicator lamp is on.

## Cruise control



Starting at about 20 mph (30 km/h), you can maintain and store any vehicle speed that you specify.

You can use cruise control, whenever the system is active while the engine is running.

- 1 Accelerate and store
- 2 Decelerate and store
- 3 Activate/interrupt/deactivate the system
- 4 Recall the stored speed

### **To activate the system**

From ignition key position 2.

Press button 3 and the indicator lamp on the instrument cluster (refer to page 23) will come on. You can now use the cruise control.



Do not use cruise control on twisting roads, when high traffic density prevents driving at a constant speed, when the road surface is slick (snow, rain, ice), or when the road surface is loose (rocks, sand). ◀

### **To deactivate the system**

Press button 3 as often as you need to until the indicator lamp on the instrument cluster goes out.

Cruise control is also deactivated when the ignition key is in position 0.

The speed stored in memory is deleted.

### **To store and maintain speed or to accelerate**

Press button 1 briefly: the system registers and maintains the current vehicle speed. Every time you tap the button, the speed increases by approx. 0.6 mph (1 km/h).

Press and hold button 1: the vehicle accelerates without pressure on the accelerator pedal. When you release the button, the system registers and maintains the current speed.



If, on a downhill gradient, the engine braking effect is not sufficient, the controlled speed may be exceeded. Speed can drop on uphill grades if the engine output is insufficient. ◀

### **To decelerate**

Press button 2 briefly: if you are already driving with active cruise control, the speed is decreased by approx. 0.6 mph (1 km/h) every time you tap the button.

Press and hold button 2: with the cruise control active, the system automatically reduces the throttle opening to slow the vehicle. When you release the button, the system registers and maintains the current speed.

### **To interrupt the cruise control**

When the cruise control is on, press button 3. The indicator lamp will stay on.

You can use the cruise control again whenever you want by calling up the speed that was stored last.

In addition, cruise control is interrupted automatically

- ▷ if the brakes are applied
- ▷ when you depress the clutch pedal,
- ▷ if you exceed or fall below the programmed speed for an extended period (by depressing the accelerator, for example).

### **Recall the stored speed.**

Press button 4: the vehicle accelerates to and maintains the last speed stored.



- 1 Odometer
- 2 Trip odometer

## Odometer

You can activate the displays shown in the illustration with the ignition key in position 0 by pressing the button (arrow) in the instrument cluster.

## Trip odometer

To reset the trip odometer to zero, press the button (arrow) with the ignition key in position 1 and up.



## Variable pre-warning zone

The orange pre-warning zone displays current permissible engine speeds, depending on the engine temperature. As the engine temperature climbs, the sectors for this pre-warning zone will go out one after the other.

Avoid engine speeds in the pre-warning zone if possible.

## Warning zone



Always avoid engine speeds in the red warning zone, as otherwise the engine may be damaged. ◀

To protect the engine, the fuel supply is automatically interrupted in this zone; you will notice a loss of power.




The general operating temperature is between 175 °F (80 °C) and 250 °F (120 °C). During performance-oriented driving, do not exceed the maximum temperature of 300 °F (150 °C).



Once the indicator lamp stays on continuously, there are still approx. 2 gallons (8 liters) of fuel in the fuel tank.

For fuel tank capacity, refer to page [181](#).

If the tilt of the vehicle varies (extended driving in mountainous areas, for example), there may be slight fluctuations of the needle.

 Fill the fuel tank well before it is empty. Driving to the last drop of fuel can result in damage to the engine and/or the catalytic converter. ◀

When the ignition is switched on, the indicator lamp in the fuel display will light up briefly to confirm that the system is operational.



**Between the blue and red zones**  
Normal operating range. It is not unusual for the needle to rise as far as the edge of the red zone in response to high outside temperatures or severe operating conditions.

### Blue

The engine is still cold. Drive at moderate engine and vehicle speeds.

### Red

To confirm that the system is operational, the warning lamp in the coolant temperature gauge will light up briefly when the ignition is switched on.

If the lamp comes on while operating the vehicle: the engine is overheated. Stop and switch the engine off immediately and allow it to cool down.

Checking coolant level, refer to page [129](#).



## Remaining distance for service

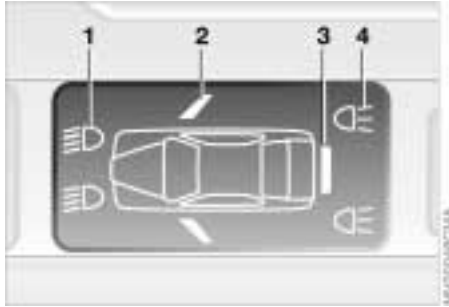
The displays shown in the illustration appear for a few seconds when the ignition key is in position 1 or after the engine is started.

The next service due appears with the message OILSERVICE or INSPECTION, together with the distance remaining before the next scheduled service.

The computer bases its calculations of the remaining distance on the previous driving style.

A flashing message and a "-" in front of the number mean that the service interval has already been exceeded by the distance shown on the display.

Please contact your BMW center for an appointment.



### Display

The following information or conditions are displayed from ignition key position 2 on, until the cause has been corrected:

- 1 Inspect the low beam and high beam headlamps, as well as the side lamps
- 2 Door open
- 3 Luggage compartment lid open
- 4 Check brake and tail lamps.

After completion of a trip and upon opening the driver's door, an acoustic signal will sound yet not be displayed, as a reminder that the low beam headlamps have not been turned off.

### Clock

If you wish to have a permanent time display, you can make this adjustment in the radio display\* (refer to the Radio Owner's Manual).

You can set the time of day, and the display for the car radio\*, as follows.



### Adjustments

From ignition key position 1:

To set ahead: turn the button to the right.

To set back: turn the button to the left. The adjustment speed will increase the longer you continue to hold the button.

To change the display mode: press the knob briefly.

Every time you press the knob, the clock display alternates between the 12-hour or 24-hour mode.

In ignition key position 0: the time is displayed for a few seconds after you press the left button (refer to "Odometer" on page 73).



## Mode selection

From ignition key position 1 on, you can use the button in the turn signal lever to retrieve information from the computer for display in the instrument cluster. By pressing the button briefly in the direction of the steering column, you can call up a new function for display.

The displays appear in the following order:

Time of day, outside temperature, average fuel consumption, cruising range, average vehicle speed.

From ignition key position 1 on, the last active setting is displayed.




## Outside temperature

You can change the units of measure (°C/°F) for the outside temperature display by pressing the right-hand reset button in the instrument cluster while the temperature display is active.

## Ice warning

If the outside temperature drops to about 37.5 °F (+3 °C), then the computer will automatically switch to show the outside temperature. In addition, a signal sounds as a warning and the display flashes for a brief period.

This warning will repeat itself whenever the temperature has climbed to at least 43 °F (+6 °C) since the last warning, and has then dropped back to 37.5 °F (+3 °C).

 Ice warnings do not exclude the possibility that surface ice can still occur at temperatures above 37.5 °F (+3 °C), e.g. on bridges and shady roads. ◀



### Average fuel consumption

If you continue to hold the button on the turn signal lever, the average fuel consumption last displayed is recalculated from that point in time.



### Cruising range

The computer bases its calculations of the cruising range on the previous driving style.



### Average speed

If you continue to hold the button on the turn signal lever, the average speed last displayed is recalculated from that point in time.

Any time spent when the vehicle is stationary and the engine is shut off is ignored for the calculation.

## The concept

The PDC assists you when you back into a parking space. A signal warns you of the distance to an obstacle. To do this, four ultrasonic sensors in the rear bumper measure the distance to the nearest object. The range for the sensors located at both rear corners ends approx. 2 ft. (60 cm) behind the bumpers. The range for the two middle sensors is approx. 4.9 feet (1.50 meters).

The system is activated automatically about one second after you engage reverse with the ignition key in position 2. PDC is deactivated when you shift back out of reverse.

## Acoustic signals

The distance to the nearest object is indicated by a tone sounding at various intervals. As the distance between vehicle and object decreases, the intervals between the tones become shorter. A continuous tone indicates the presence of an object less than 1 ft. (30 cm) away.

The warning signal is interrupted after approx. three seconds if the distance to the obstacle remains constant during this time (if you are moving parallel to a wall, for instance).

System malfunctions will be indicated by a continuous high-pitched tone when the system is activated the first time. Please refer the problem to your BMW center.



The PDC does not remove the driver's personal responsibility for evaluating the distance between the vehicle and any obstacles. Even when sensors are involved, there is a blind spot in which objects cannot be detected. This applies especially in those cases where the system approaches the physical limits of ultrasonic measurement, as occurs with tow bars and trailer couplings, and in the vicinity of thin and painted objects. Certain sources of sound, such as a loud radio, could drown out the PDC signal tone. ◀



Keep the sensors clean and free of ice or snow in order to ensure that they continue to operate effectively. Do not apply high pressure spray to the sensors for a prolonged period of time. Always maintain a distance of more than 4 in (10 cm). ◀



### The concept

DSC helps maintain vehicle stability, even in critical driving situations.

The system optimizes vehicle stability during acceleration and when starting from a full stop, as well as optimizing traction. In addition, the system recognizes unstable vehicle conditions (understeering or oversteering in curves, for example) and holds the vehicle on course by intervening via the engine and by braking intervention at the individual wheels within the limits defined by the laws of physics.

The system starts up automatically each time you start the engine.



The laws of physics cannot be repealed, even with DSC. The results of driving irresponsibly rest with the driver. We therefore urge you to avoid using the additional safety margin of the system as an excuse for taking risks. Do not make any modifications to the DSC system. Service procedures on the system are to be performed by authorized technicians only. ◀

You will find additional details concerning DSC in the chapter "Advanced technology" on page 170.

### Indicator lamp



The indicator lamp on the instrument cluster will go out shortly after the ignition has been switched on. Refer to page 21.

- ▷ Indicator lamp flashes: the system is active and is controlling the drive torque based on driving conditions
- ▷ If the indicator lamp fails to go out after the engine has been started, or if it comes on during normal driving and stays on: there is a system malfunction or the system was deactivated with the button. You can continue to drive the vehicle normally, but without DSC. Please consult your BMW center for repairs.

### To deactivate the system

Press the button – the indicator lamp comes on and stays on.

When DSC is deactivated, you are driving with conventional power transfer.

We recommend that you turn the system off for increased traction:

- ▷ When rocking the vehicle or starting off in deep snow or on loose surfaces
  - ▷ When driving with snow chains.
- Refer also to page 110.



To help maintain driving stability, drive with the DSC activated whenever possible. ◀

### To reactivate the system

Press the button again; the indicator lamp goes out.

# Tire Pressure Warning (RDW)

## The concept

The Tire Pressure Warning system (RDW) monitors the tire inflation pressure in all four tires while driving. The system is designed to detect whenever the inflation pressure in a tire drops off significantly.

By monitoring the speeds of the tires relative to each other, a flat tire can be detected and reported because its speed suddenly deviates drastically from that of the other tires.



- 3 Press button until the yellow indicator lamp on the instrument cluster lights up. After a little while, the indicator lamp will go out automatically
- 4 After a few minutes, the RDW will accept the current inflation pressure as its reference value, and from that point on, can detect and report a flat tire.

## Initializing the system

Initializing is necessary to familiarize the system with the correct inflation pressure.

Repeat this process after any changes in tire inflation pressure, tire rotation or replacement. Do not carry out further system initialization after correcting the inflation pressure and letting the system "learn" what condition is required.

- 1 Check the tire inflation pressure in all the tires, comparing them with the inflation pressure table (page 28), and adjusting their pressure if necessary
- 2 Turn the ignition key to position 2

## 82 Tire Pressure Warning (RDW)



### Activating/deactivating the system

The system is automatically active in ignition key position 2 and is therefore always on during driving.

To deactivate the system: tap the button, the indicator lamp will light up yellow.

To activate the system: tap the button again; the indicator lamp goes out.

Deactivate the system while driving with snow chains, since false warnings and undetected losses in pressure are possible under these kinds of conditions.

### In the event of a flat tire



The indicator lamp on the instrument cluster will light up red in the event of a significant loss in tire pressure. In addition, an acoustic signal is sounded. To come to an immediate stop, reduce speed, while avoiding any sudden, jerky braking or steering maneuvers.

Fix the flat tire using the M Mobility system (refer to page [153](#)).

Resetting the indicator lamp: the red indicator lamp has to be turned off manually after putting on a new wheel. At this point, hold the RDW button down until the indicator lamp goes out. Re-initialize the system afterward.



The RDW cannot alert you to severe and sudden tire damage caused by external factors. The RDW will not identify the natural, even loss of pressure in all four tires, either. ◀



Check the tire inflation pressure on a regular basis and correct if necessary. Refer to page [27](#).

Under certain circumstances, there may be false warnings or a delayed detection of losses in pressure when driving on snow-covered or slippery road surfaces.

A sporty driving style (slip at the wheels receiving the torque, high lateral accelerations) can lead to delayed RDW warnings. ◀

### System malfunction

As long as there is still a malfunction, the indicator lamp on the instrument cluster will remain yellow.

Please contact your BMW center for additional information.



The system (sport mode identification) will cause the engine to respond more spontaneously to the motion of the accelerator pedal.

## **Activating/deactivating sport mode identification**

Activating: with the key in ignition key position 2, press the sport button. The indicator lamp will light up.

Deactivating: press the sport button again; the indicator lamp will go out.

The sporty mode is deactivated every time the engine is started.



### "LAMPS ON" warning

Whenever you open the driver's door, after having turned the ignition key to position 0, you will hear a buzzing sound for a few seconds to remind you that the lamps have not been switched off.

### Daylight driving lamps\*

If you desire, the lamp switch can be left in the second position. When the ignition is switched off, the external lighting is also switched off.

### Parking lamps/Side marker lamps



With the switch in this position, vehicle lighting is illuminated on both sides. You can use the side lamps for parking. Refer to page 85 for one-sided lighting as an additional possibility for parking.



In order to spare the battery, all of the lamps in the vehicle are switched off automatically approx. 15 minutes after the ignition key has been turned to position 0. ◀

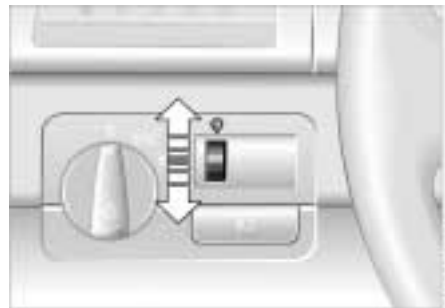
### Low beam headlamps



When you switch the ignition off with the low beam headlamps on, only the side lamps will remain on.



"Follow-me-home lamps": If you turn the headlamp flasher on after you have parked the vehicle, the low beam headlamps will remain on for a short period of time. You can also have this function deactivated. ◀



Turn the rotary dial to control the lighting when the side lamps or low beam headlamps are on.

## High beams/Side marker lamps



- 1 High beams (blue indicator lamp)
- 2 Headlamp flasher (blue indicator lamp)
- 3 Parking lamps

### Side marker lamps, left or right

As an additional feature, you can illuminate your vehicle on either side for parking, if you wish to do so:

With the ignition key in position 0, engage the lever in the appropriate turn signal position.

## Fog lamps

85



### Front fog lamps



A green indicator lamp appears in the instrument cluster to indicate that the front fog lamps are on.



The interior lamps operate automatically.

### To switch the interior lamps on and off manually

Press the button briefly.

If you want the interior lamps to remain off all the time, press and hold the button for approx. 3 seconds.

To revert to normal operation, press the button briefly.

### Footwell lamps

The footwell lamps operate in the same way as the interior lamps.



### Front reading lamps\*

Switch on and off with the switch adjacent to each lamp.



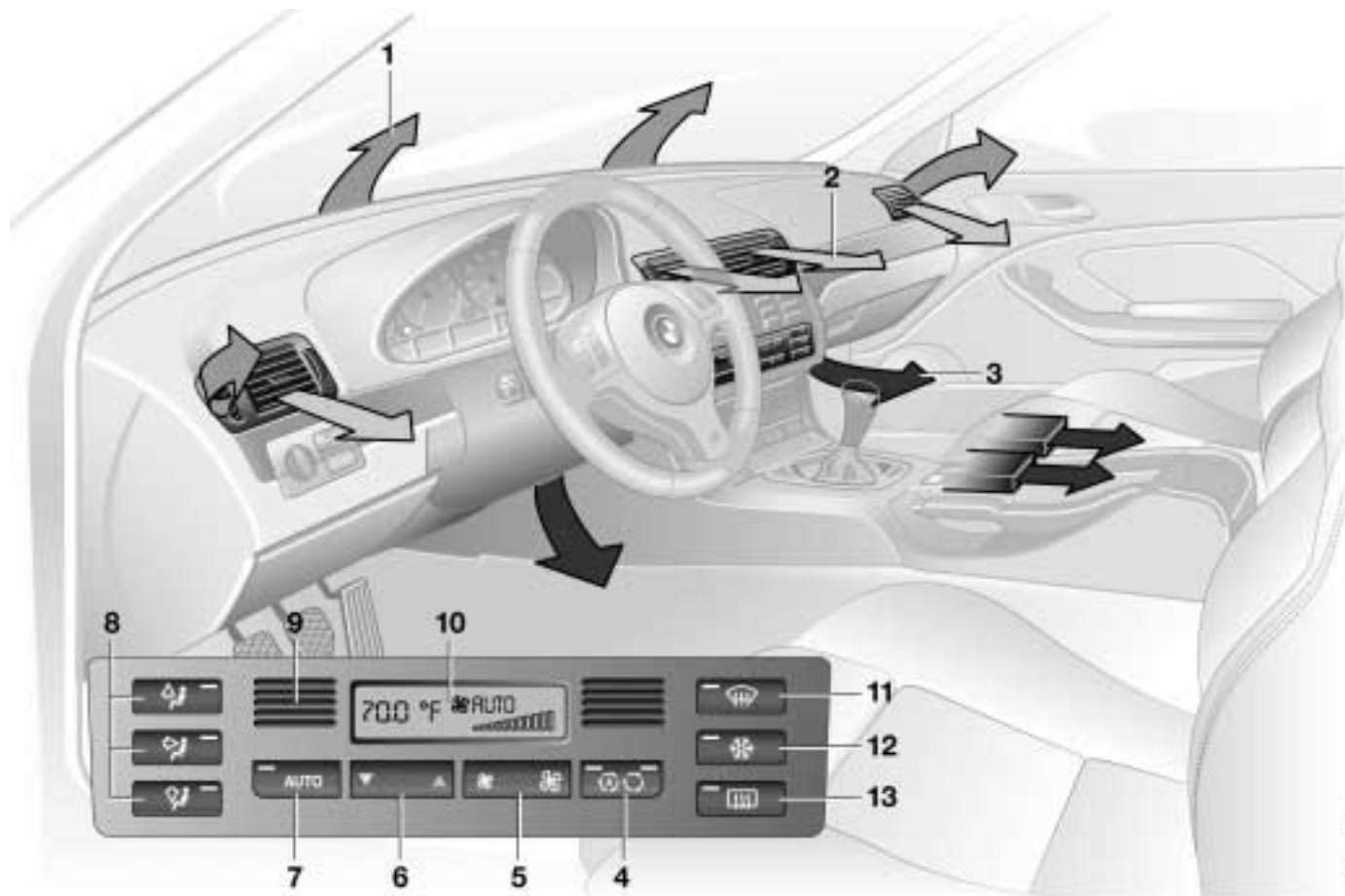
### Rear reading lamps

On the hardtop\* there are also reading lamps in the back. Switch on and off with the switch adjacent to each lamp.



In order to spare the battery, all of the lamps in the vehicle are switched off automatically approx. 15 minutes after the ignition key has been turned to position 0. ◀





- 1 Air onto the windshield and onto the side windows
- 2 Airflow toward the upper body  
The side rotary dials allow you to open and close the air supply through an infinitely-variable range, while the levers change the airflow direction. The center rotary dial adjusts the temperature of the emerging air, see page [92](#)
- 3 Ventilation for the front footwell  
There are corresponding air vents in the rear footwell as well
- 4 Recirculated air mode/Automatic recirculated air control (AUC) [91](#)
- 5 Air supply (fan) [91](#)
- 6 Temperature [90](#)
- 7 Automatic air distribution [90](#)
- 8 Individual air distribution [90](#)
- 9 Air grille for interior temperature sensor – please keep clear and unobstructed
- 10 Display for temperature and air supply [90](#)
- 11 To defrost the windows and remove condensation [91](#)
- 12 Air conditioner [91](#)
- 13 Rear window defroster [71](#), [92](#)

**Tips for pleasant driving**

Use the automatic system (switch on AUTO – button 7).

- ▷ Select an interior temperature that is comfortable for you – e.g. 72 °F (+22 °C).
- ▷ Whenever the outside temperature is above 41 °F (+5 °C), you can also use the air conditioner 12. This will dry the air as well as preventing condensation on the window surfaces – if there are passengers with damp clothing, for example.
- ▷ Set the outlets 2 so that the air flows past you and is not directed straight at you.
- ▷ Set the rotary dial between the air outlets 2 for the upper body to a medium position, since air that is somewhat cooler promotes driving without fatigue.

Detailed setting options are described for you in the following sections.




Your vehicle is set in such a manner that, when you unlock the vehicle with your individualized remote control, your own personalized setting for the automatic climate control is initiated. ◀

**Automatic air distribution**

The automatic program will take over




- ▷ automatically distributing the air supply to the vents, as well as
- ▷ automatically adjusting the amount of incoming air.

It will adapt to the settings you have made for the temperature that you want in the passenger compartment – taking outside influences into account (summer, winter) – and will provide you with a comfortable climate in the vehicle at any time of the year.

- ▷ Select an interior temperature that is comfortable for you – e.g. 72 °F (+22 °C). The temperature selected and  AUTO for air supply will appear in display 10. Refer to the overview on page 88
- ▷ Open up the vents for the upper body
- ▷ Switch on the air conditioner in warm weather. The maximum cooling capacity is achieved when you set rotary dial 3 (refer to page 92) to cold.

**Individual air distribution**

You can cancel the AUTO program by selecting specific distribution patterns to suit your own individual requirements.

You can direct air to flow onto the windows , toward the upper body , and into the footwell .

**Temperature**

The figures in the display provide a general indication of interior temperature. We recommend 72 °F (+22 °C) as a comfortable setting, even if the air conditioner is on. When you start the vehicle, the system ensures that the selected temperature is reached as quickly as possible. It then maintains this temperature, regardless of the season.

Set rotary dial 3 (refer to "Draft-free ventilation" on page 92) to a medium setting, since air that is somewhat cooler promotes driving without fatigue. You can use this setting for mixing air to make minor comfort modifications.



You can set uncontrolled heater output up to 90 °F (+32 °C). The air conditioner is at full cooling output at 60 °F (+16 °C). ◀

# Automatic climate control

## Air supply (fan)



By pressing the left or right half of the button, you can vary the air supply. By doing this, you switch off the automatic control of the air supply. Nevertheless, the automatic air distribution remains unchanged.

When you set the lowest blower speed by pressing the left half of the button, all of the displays are canceled: the blower, heating and air conditioner are switched off, and the air supply is stopped. You can reactivate the system by pressing any button for the automatic climate control.

## Defrosting the windows and removing condensation



This program quickly removes ice and condensation from the windshield and side windows.

## Air conditioner



The air is cooled and dehumidified and – depending on the temperature setting – rewarmed when the air conditioner system is switched on.

Depending on the weather, the windshield may fog over briefly when the engine is started.

Use the button to switch the air conditioner off at outside temperatures below approx. 41 °F (+5 °C). This will help to prevent the windows from fogging over.

If the windows fog over after switching the air conditioner off, switch it back on.



Condensation forms in the air conditioner system during operation, that then exits under the vehicle. Traces of condensed water of this kind are thus normal. ◀

## Automatic recirculated air control (AUC)



If there are unpleasant odors or pollutants in the outside air, you can temporarily block the airflow from the outside. The system then recirculates the air already within the vehicle.

By repeated actuation of the button, you can select one of three different operation modes.

- ▷ Indicator lamps off: outside air always flowing into the vehicle
- ▷ Left-hand indicator lamp on – Automatic mode: the system detects pollutants in the outside air and responds by deactivating the outside airflow as required. The system then recirculates the air already within the vehicle. Depending on air quality requirements, the system automatically switches between outside air supply and recirculation of the air already within the vehicle
- ▷ Right-hand indicator lamp on: the flow of outside air is permanently blocked. The system recirculates the air already within the vehicle.

## 92 Automatic climate control

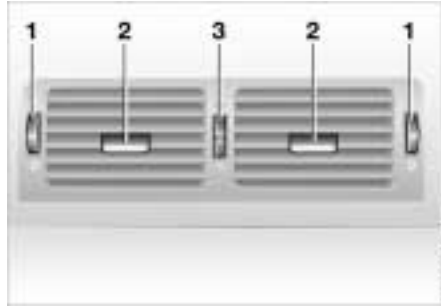


If the windows fog over in the recirculated air mode, switch the recirculated air off and increase the air supply as required. ◀

### Rear window defroster



When the rear window defroster is activated, the indicator lamp comes on. The rear window defroster switches off automatically. Refer to page [71](#).



### Draft-free ventilation

You can adjust the vents for the upper body area to select the optimum airflow rates and directions for your personal requirements:

- 1 Rotary dials for opening and closing the vents at any setting desired
- 2 Lever for changing the direction of the airflow.  
Set the outlets so that the air flows past you and is not directed straight at you
- 3 Using the rotary dial, you can mix more or less cool air with the air coming out of the vents aimed at the upper body

### Microfilter/Activated-charcoal filter

The built-in microfilter removes dust and pollen from the incoming air. The activated-charcoal filter provides additional protection by filtering gaseous pollutants from the outside air. Your BMW center will replace the combined filter as a standard part of your scheduled maintenance. A substantial reduction in airflow indicates that the filter needs to be replaced early.

For additional details on changing the filter, refer to page [161](#).

## Heated seats\*



The seat cushion and backrest can be heated with the ignition key in position 2.

### Heating levels

You can select different heating levels by repeatedly pressing the buttons.

When the three indicator lamps are illuminated, the highest heating mode is activated. One lamp indicates the lowest heating mode. The temperature is thermostatically controlled in each mode.

### To deactivate

Press repeatedly or hold down until all of the indicator lamps go out.

## 94 Glove compartment



▶ If, for example you turn over only your door key for valet parking (refer to page 32), access to the glove compartment and luggage compartment is not possible. ◀

### Opening and closing

To open: pull the handle. The glove compartment lamp will light up.

To close: fold the cover up.

⚠ To prevent injury in the event of a crash, close the glove compartment immediately after use. ◀

### To lock

Lock with one of the master keys. A master key must also be used for unlocking.

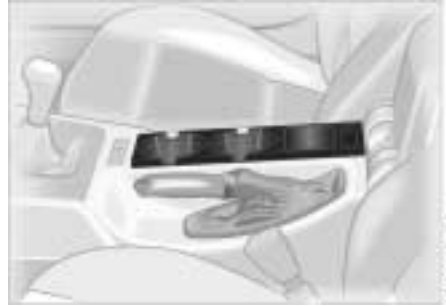


## Front center armrest\*

To open: press the button (arrow) and lift upward.

## Other compartments and nets

You will find additional storage compartments in the doors and in the center console above the ashtray. Storage nets are on the front seat back-rests.



## Beverage holder, coin box

A coin box and two beverage holders are provided in the center console.



### Hands-free system

On vehicles with telephone preparation\* the trim piece for the hands-free microphone is located above the inside mirror on the driver's side.

For further information on the cellular phone, refer to the separate Owner's Manual.



### To open

Press briefly in the direction indicated by the arrow.



### To empty

Press on the edge of the open cover (arrow): you can now pull the ashtray upward for removal.


### Extinguishing cigarettes

Tap off the ash and gently press the tip into the funnel.

## Cigarette lighter



Press the lighter in. Remove as soon as the lighter jumps back out.

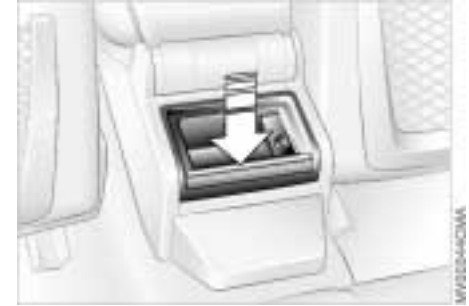
 Hold or touch the hot cigarette lighter by the knob only. Holding or touching it in other areas could result in burns.

The cigarette lighter remains operational when the ignition key has been removed. For this reason, children should never be left in the vehicle unattended. ◀

### Cigarette lighter socket

It can be used for attaching power supplies for flashlights, car vacuum cleaners and other similar appliances up to a rating of approx. 200 watts at 12 volts. Avoid damaging the socket by attempting to insert plugs of different shapes or sizes.

## Ashtray, rear



### To open

Push the cover open.

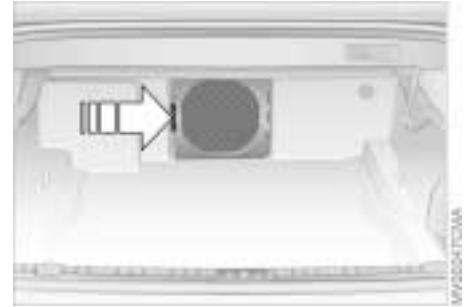
### To empty

Press on the edge of the raised cover in the opening direction (arrow). The ashtray will pop up and can be removed.

## 98 Ski bag\*

The ski bag allows the safe and clean transport of up to 3 pairs of standard skis or up to two snowboards.

The length of the ski bag and the additional space provided in the luggage compartment make it possible to carry skis with a length of up to 6.8 feet (2.10 meters). Because of the tapered shape of the bag, the ski bag can only accommodate two pairs of skis with a length of 6.8 feet (2.10 meters).



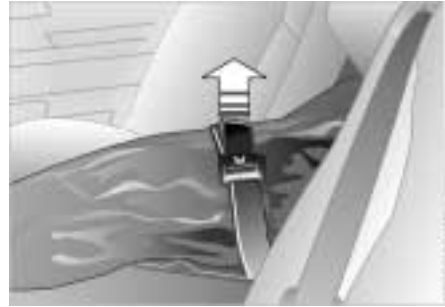
### Loading

- 1 Remove the safety belts in the rear from their holders
- 2 Press down the lever (arrow) and remove the center piece toward the front
- 3 Extend the ski bag between the front seats. The zipper provides convenient access to stored items. It may be opened to allow the ski bag to dry.


- 4 Press the release button in the luggage compartment (arrow)



- 5 Secure the cover panel on the rear panel with the magnetic retainers and pull out the ski bag.



## Securing the load


-  Secure the skis or other objects in the bag by tightening the strap with the buckle. ◀

Please be sure that your skis are clean before loading them into the bag. Avoid damage from sharp edges during loading.



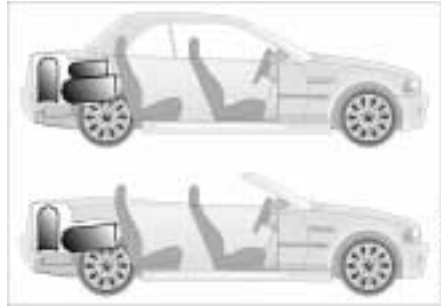
## Stowing the ski bag

When stowing the ski bag, proceed in the reverse order of loading.

-  When remounting the center piece, guide the two bars into the strip and press back the center piece. Secure the safety belts in their holders again. ◀



Always position and secure the load correctly. If you do not, it can endanger the passengers during braking or evasive maneuvers. Do not exceed the permissible gross weight and axle load (refer to page 180), otherwise the vehicle's operating safety is no longer assured and you are in violation of the law. Do not stow heavy or hard objects in the passenger compartment without first securing them. Otherwise they would be thrown around during braking and evasive maneuvers and endanger the occupants. ◀



### Stowing cargo

If you are transporting a load in your BMW:

- ▷ Load heavy cargo as far forward as possible – directly behind the backrests or the luggage compartment partition – and as low as possible.
- ▷ Cover sharp edges and corners.



With the convertible top closed you can increase the size of the luggage compartment, refer to page 41, by folding up the convertible top compartment base.

It is advisable to always fold down the convertible top compartment base as soon as you have removed your load from the luggage compartment. This way, you can be sure that you can

always operate the convertible top at any time.

Conversely, when the convertible top is closed, raise the convertible top compartment base before stowing your cargo in the luggage compartment to avoid any damage to the convertible top compartment or your load. ◀



### Securing the cargo in the luggage compartment

- ▷ Secure smaller and lighter pieces with a luggage compartment net\* or tensioning straps (refer to page 40)
- ▷ For large, heavy pieces, see your BMW center for load-securing devices\*. Lashing eyes (arrow) are provided at the corners of the luggage compartment for attaching these load-securing devices.

Comply with the information enclosed with the load-securing devices.



A special roof-rack system is available for your BMW as an optional extra. Please comply with the precautions included with the installation instructions.

### Anchorage points

Access to the anchors:  
To fold up the cover (arrow), please use the tool provided with the roof-rack system.

### Loading and driving notes

Because roof racks raise the center of gravity of the vehicle when loaded, they exercise a major effect on its handling and steering response.  
When loading, be sure to remember not to exceed the approved roof weight or

the approved gross vehicle weight or the axle loads. You will find the specifications under "Technical Data" on page 180.

Make sure that the load is not too heavy, and attempt to distribute it evenly. Always load the heaviest pieces first (on the bottom). Make sure that no objects get in the way when the luggage compartment lid is opening or closing.

Secure the roof luggage correctly and tightly to prevent it from shifting or being lost during driving (danger to following traffic).

Drive smoothly and avoid sudden acceleration or braking. Do not corner at high speeds.

The luggage rack and roof luggage increase the amount of surface exposed to the wind: increased fuel consumption and additional stresses on the vehicle's body result from this.



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**Overview****Controls and features****Operation, care and maintenance****Owner service procedures****Advanced technology****Technical data****Index**

To ensure that your vehicle continues to provide maximum economy throughout an extended service life, we request that you devote careful attention to the following section.

 Your BMW M3 convertible is a masterpiece of superlative technology. To create the basis for many years of driving pleasure, we urge you to observe the following precautions during the initial operation period. ◀

### **Engine and differential**

▷ Up to 1,200 miles (2,000 km): drive at varying engine and road speeds, but do not exceed the following engine or road speeds: 5,500 rpm or 105 mph (170 km/h)

Do not depress the accelerator pedal to the full throttle position.


▷ Following the Break-In Inspection at 1,200 miles (2,000 km), you can gradually increase engine or road speeds.

Follow the same break-in procedure if either the engine or the differential is replaced in the future.

### **Tires**

Due to technical factors associated with their manufacture, tires do not achieve their full traction potential until after an initial break-in period. You should therefore drive with extra care during the initial 200 miles (300 km).


Obey your local and state maximum speed limits.

 When the vehicle is operated on wet or slushy roads, a wedge of water may form between the tire and the road surface. This phenomenon is referred to as aquaplaning, or hydroplaning, and can lead to partial or complete loss of traction, vehicle control and braking effectiveness. Reduce your speed on wet roads. ◀

### **Brake system**

Approximately 300 miles (500 km) must elapse before the brake pads and discs achieve the optimal pad-surface and wear patterns required for troublefree operation and long service life later on.


To break-in the separate parking brake drums, apply the parking brake lightly when coasting to a standstill (at a traffic signal, for instance), provided that traffic conditions allow you to do so. To avoid corrosion, repeat this procedure from time to time.

 The brake lamps do not come on when the parking brake is engaged.

Vacuum for the brake system servo unit on your BMW is available only when the engine is running. When you move the vehicle with the engine off – when towing, for example – substantially higher levels of pedal force will be required to brake the vehicle. ◀

### **Clutch**

The clutch will also begin to function optimally after about 300 miles (500 km). Drive cautiously during this break-in period and do not shift at high engine speeds.

 Brakes: do not rest your foot on the brake pedal while driving. Even light but consistent pressure on the brake pedal can lead to high temperatures, brake wear and possibly even brake system failure.


Aquaplaning: when driving on wet or slushy roads, reduce vehicle speed. If you do not, a wedge of water may form between the tires and the road surface. This phenomenon is referred to as aquaplaning, or hydroplaning, and can lead to partial or complete loss of contact between the tires and road surface, vehicle control and braking ability.

Driving through water: do not drive through water on the road if it is deeper than 1 foot (30 cm), and then only at walking speed at the most. Otherwise, the vehicle's engine, the electrical systems and the transmission may be damaged. ◀

The catalytic converter reduces harmful pollutants in the exhaust emissions. It is designed for use with unleaded fuel only. Even minute quantities of lead would be enough to permanently damage both the catalytic converter and the system's oxygen sensor.

To ensure efficient, trouble-free engine operation and to avoid potential damage:

- ▷ Be sure to comply with the required scheduled maintenance work and repair procedures.
- ▷ Fill the fuel tank well before it is empty.
- ▷ Tow-start only when the engine is cold, otherwise unburned, residual fuel in the catalytic converter could ignite and cause damage. It is better to jump-start the vehicle with outside assistance.
- ▷ Avoid other situations where the fuel is not burned, or burns incompletely, such as engaging the starter frequently or for extended periods, or repeated start attempts in which the engine does not start (stopping and restarting an engine which is running properly does not present a problem). Never let the engine run with any of the spark plug cables disconnected.

 Be sure to observe the instructions above to prevent unburned fuel from reaching the catalytic converter. Otherwise there is danger of overheating and damage to the catalytic converter.

High temperatures occur in any vehicle equipped with a catalytic converter. Heat shields are installed adjacent to some sections of the exhaust system. Never remove these shields; do not apply undercoating to their surfaces. When driving, standing at idle, and parking the vehicle, take extra care to avoid contact between the exhaust system and flammable materials (grass, hay, leaves, etc.). Such contact could start a fire, resulting in personal injury and property damage. ◀

**The concept**

ABS helps prevent the wheels from locking while braking, thereby enhancing active driving safety. This is because locked wheels are dangerous. When the front wheels slide, the driver loses steering control over the vehicle. Traction loss at the rear wheels can cause the rear end to break into an uncontrolled skid.

Under any given road conditions, ABS can brake the vehicle within the shortest possible distance and with the greatest possible driving stability (on straight-aways and curves, asphalt, ice, wet road surfaces, etc.).

ABS is designed to meet two essential requirements during every brake application:

- ▷ To help provide vehicle stability
- ▷ To help maintain steering control and maneuverability – on all types of road surfaces (asphalt, concrete, mud, wet road surfaces, snow, ice).

**Braking with ABS**

The system is operative once the vehicle exceeds a speed of approx. 6 mph (10 km/h). The ABS is deactivated whenever the vehicle's speed drops back below approx. 4 mph (6 km/h). This means that the wheels can lock in the final phase of a panic stop – a factor of no significance in actual use.

If you are in a situation that requires full braking, you will exploit the full benefits of the ABS system if you apply maximum pedal pressure ("panic stop"). Do not let up on the brake pedal even after it starts pulsating. Since the vehicle maintains steering response, you retain the ability to avoid obstacles using careful steering inputs.

The ABS system's closed-loop control circuit cycles in fractions of a second. Pulsation at the brake pedal shows you that ABS is active and that you are thus approaching the limits of the brake system's effective response range. In addition, a pulsation – a result of the control function cycles – indicates to the driver that vehicle speed should be reduced to adapt to road surface conditions when there is reduced traction

and grip between tires and road surface (slippery road surface).

On road surfaces with a loose surface layer over a firm base, e.g. on gravel or snow, as well as when driving with snow chains on, braking distances may be longer than with the wheels locked. However, ABS continues to provide enhanced vehicle stability and steering response under these conditions.

**Information for your safety**

Not even ABS can suspend the laws of physics. The consequences of brake applications with inadequate clearances for safety between vehicles, excessive speed or if aquaplaning occurs are always the responsibility of the driver. You should never allow the added safety of ABS to lull you into a false sense of security, or mislead you into taking risks that could affect your own safety and that of others.




Do not make any modifications to the ABS system.


Service procedures on ABS are to be performed by authorized technicians only. ◀


## Antilock Brake System (ABS)/ Cornering Brake Control (CBC)

CBC is an advanced engineering feature of the ABS. When braking while cornering at high speed or braking during high lateral acceleration in curves, or when braking during a lane change, vehicle stability is improved and steering response is enhanced.

### In the event of a malfunction

 If the ABS warning lamp comes on, refer to page 21. The brake system will continue to function the same as on vehicles without ABS. However, have the brake system checked by your BMW center as soon as possible. To prevent undetected defects and cumulative faults from adversely affecting the brake system, refer any problems to your BMW center at the earliest opportunity.

 ABS warning lamp for Canadian models.

 If the brake warning lamp comes on together with the indicator lamps for ABS and DSC, refer to page 21: then the entire ABS, CBC and DSC control system has failed. Continue driving cautiously and defensively. Avoid full brake applications. This could cause the vehicle to lose stability and you might no longer be able to control it. Have the system checked by your BMW center as soon as possible.




CBC, ABS and DSC indicator and warning lamps for Canadian models.

Disc brakes furnish optimum deceleration and braking control with greater fade resistance under heavy use.

Using your vehicle only occasionally, leaving your vehicle parked for extended periods, and making only minimal demands on your brakes promotes brake disc corrosion and brake pad contamination, because the minimal loads required for your disc brakes to self-clean have not been reached.

If the brake discs are corroded, they will tend to respond to braking with a pulsating effect that even extended brake applications will fail to cure.

 For your own safety: use only brake pads that BMW has approved for your particular vehicle model. BMW cannot evaluate non-approved brake pads to determine if they are suited for use, and therefore cannot ensure the operating safety of the vehicle if they are installed. ◀

### **Driving notes**

When driving in wet conditions and in heavy rain, it is effective to apply light pressure to the brakes every few miles. Be aware of traffic conditions to ensure that this maneuver does not endanger other road users. The heat which is generated by the brake applications helps to dry the brake pads and discs.

Maximum braking force is obtained while the wheels are not locked, but rather when they are still barely turning immediately prior to locking. ABS maintains this state automatically. If the ABS should ever fail, pump the brakes if possible (refer to page 111).

Drive down long or steep descents in the mountains using a gear that requires the least amount of braking. Doing this prevents putting excessive loads on the brakes, which in turn keeps the brake system from possibly being damaged. Stay within the allowable engine speed range. For further information, refer to page 73.

Braking effect on the engine can be further increased by downshifting, into first gear, if necessary.

Should the braking effect from the engine prove inadequate, you should still avoid extended, continuous braking. Instead, decelerate the vehicle by stepping hard on the brake pedal (while watching out for drivers behind you), and, if necessary, continue to decelerate by pumping the brakes (staggered braking). This staggered braking technique allows the brakes to cool in the intervals between active braking phases. This prevents overheating and ensures that full braking capacity remains available at all times.



Do not coast with the clutch depressed, with the shift lever in neutral or with the engine shut off. The engine does not provide any braking effect with the transmission in neutral or with the engine shut off. Do not allow floor mats, carpets or any other objects to protrude into the area around the brake pedal, the clutch or the accelerator which could obstruct their freedom of movement. ◀

# Brake system

## Brake fluid level



If the brake warning lamp comes on with the parking brake released: the brake fluid level is too low in the reservoir (refer to page 130).

If the brake fluid level is too low and brake pedal travel has become noticeably longer, there may be a defect in one of the brake system's hydraulic circuits.



Brake warning lamp for Canadian models.



Proceed to the nearest BMW center. Greater pressure on the brake pedal may be necessary under these conditions, and brake pedal travel may be significantly longer. Please remember to adapt your driving style accordingly. ◀

## Brake pads



If the warning lamp for the brake pads comes on: only the minimum pad thickness still remains on the brake pads. Proceed to the nearest BMW center as soon as possible to have the pads replaced.



For your own safety: use only brake pads that BMW has approved for your particular vehicle model. BMW cannot evaluate non-approved brake pads to determine if they are suited for use, and therefore cannot ensure the operating safety of the vehicle if they are installed. ◀

The onset of winter is often accompanied by rapid changes in weather. Adaptations in driving style should be accompanied by preparations on the vehicle itself to ensure that your progress through the winter remains safe and trouble-free.

### **Coolant**

Be sure that the coolant mixture contains the year-round ratio of 50:50 water and extended-duty antifreeze/corrosion inhibitor. This mixture provides protection against freezing down to approx. -34 °F (-37 °C). Have the coolant replaced every 3 years.

### **Locks**

BMW door lock deicer can be used to free them if frozen. This deicer also contains lubricant.

After using the deicer, treatment with BMW lock cylinder grease is recommended.

### **Rubber components**

To prevent the weather-stripping from freezing, apply a spray-on rubber treatment or silicone spray to the door, hood and luggage compartment lid seals.



A full range of car care products is available from your BMW center. ◀

### **Snow chains**

Mount BMW snow chains\* only in pairs on rear tires and always follow the manufacturer's safety precautions. Do not exceed a maximum speed of 30 mph (50 km/h) with snow chains. In rare situations like these, it may be a good idea to turn the DSC off briefly, refer to page [80](#).

Deactivate the Tire Pressure Warning system (RDW) when driving with snow chains mounted. Snow chains can cause the system to generate false alarms and/or fail to detect pressure loss, refer to page [81](#)

### **Starting off**

When trying to drive out of deep snow, or when "rocking" the vehicle to free it, it may be prudent to temporarily deactivate the DSC system. Refer to page [80](#).

### **Driving on low-traction road surfaces**

Use smooth, gentle pressure to control the accelerator pedal. Avoid excessive engine speeds and shift to the next higher gear at an early point. Adapt your speed and driving style when approaching grades or slopes. Maintain an adequate distance between yourself and the vehicle ahead.

## Winter operation

### Brakes

Winter road conditions substantially reduce the amount of traction available between the tires and the road surface; the resulting increase in braking distance is considerable and should always be kept in mind.

ABS is intended to prevent the wheels from locking during brake applications, thus helping to maintain vehicle stability and steering response.

If the ABS does not respond in a critical braking situation and the wheels lock: reduce the pressure on the brake pedal until the wheels just start to roll again while still maintaining enough force to continue braking.

Then increase the pressure, reduce the pressure when the wheels lock, reapply pressure etc.

Pumping the brakes will reduce braking distance while helping you maintain steering control over the vehicle.

You can then attempt to steer around hazards after you have reduced pressure on the brake pedal.



Do not downshift to decelerate on slick road surfaces. Doing so could cause loss of traction at the rear wheels, which could result in the loss of vehicle control. ◀



Depress the clutch during hard braking on road surfaces that provide only poor or uneven traction. ◀

### Skid control

Depress the clutch and release the accelerator pedal. Countersteer carefully and attempt to regain control of the vehicle.

### Parking

Engage either 1st gear or reverse. Apply the parking brake whenever you park on inclined surfaces. In order to prevent the parking brake pads from locking due to frost or corrosion, dry them by gently applying the parking brake as the vehicle is coming to a stop. Make sure that following traffic is not endangered.



The brake lamps do not come on when the parking brake is applied. ◀

## 112 Power steering

If the steering response changes, e.g. high steering effort:  
Consult a BMW center to have it checked.



If the power steering fails, increased effort will be required to steer the vehicle. ◀

## Cellular phone\*

Mobile communications systems (cellular phone, radio, etc.) are permitted with an output up to 10 watts only. Mobile communications devices not specifically designed for use in your vehicle may trigger malfunctions while operating your vehicle. BMW can neither test nor assume responsibility for every individual product being offered on the market. We recommend that you consult your BMW center before purchasing any device of this kind.

To ensure that your BMW continues to provide reliable and trouble-free operation, do not use a cellular phone or other radio device with an antenna located inside the passenger compartment. The antenna should always be mounted on the outside of the vehicle.



Before loading the vehicle on a car-carrier train or driving it through a car wash, remove the antenna. ◀

## Radio reception

The reception and sound quality obtained from mobile radios vary according to a variety of factors, including the broadcast range of the transmitter and the directional orientation of the antenna. Interference factors such as high-tension power lines, buildings and natural obstructions can all lead to unavoidable reception interference, regardless of how well the vehicle's sound system is operating. Climatic factors such as intense solar radiation, fog, rain and snow can also interfere with reception.

Car telephones or cellular phones not approved by BMW can also cause interference in the radio during a telephone call. This phenomenon assumes the form of a low-pitched hum emanating from the speaker system.


Please refer to the separate Owner's Manual that came with your vehicle for information on setting and operating your car radio.

You will find additional details concerning car radio reception in the chapter "Advanced technology" on page [169](#).

## Hardtop\*

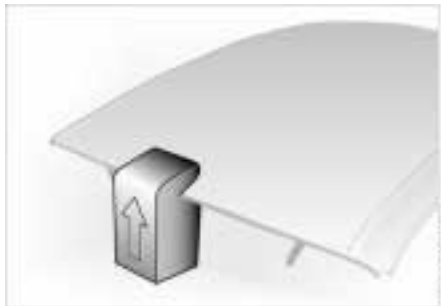
It is not necessary to remove the fabric top even in the winter, when the hardtop is generally in constant use. But you can also remove it at any time with no problem. Before the fabric top is stored in the convertible top compartment, it must be absolutely dry in order to prevent water spots and mildew from forming.

The hardtop is equipped with reading lamps in the rear and clothes hooks operated simply by pressing. In addition, a roof-rack assembly is available. In this regard, please contact your BMW center.


 When suspending clothing from the hooks, ensure that they will not obstruct the driver's vision. Do not hang heavy objects on the hooks. If you do so, they could cause personal injury during braking or evasive maneuvers. ◀

Two people are required for installation or removal. Work with extreme caution in order to avoid paint damage and damage to the body or hardtop.

To facilitate hardtop installation or removal, you can obtain a specially designed hardtop lift\* or hardtop rack\* at your BMW center.



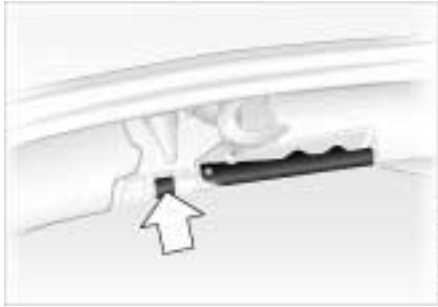
### Storage

 Storing the hardtop on the floor: shove the styrofoam block that came with the hardtop forward to its center. The arrow on top of the styrofoam block has to be pointing upward when you are doing this. ◀



### Installation

- 1 Lower the side windows completely and flip the sun visors down. If necessary, remove the antenna rod to avoid any damage
- 2 Open the convertible top compartment lid slightly with the button for convertible top operation, refer to page 46
- 3 Remove the trim pieces on both sides by pulling them off toward the back (arrow), and reclose the convertible top compartment lid



4 Open the two front locking levers on the hardtop by pressing the buttons (arrow). The levers will release slightly. Raise the levers as far as the stop will allow

5 Before installing, first flip down the cover panels that are located underneath the left and right interior lamps. To do this, press on the slight bump on the cover panel. There is a holder in the cover panel to securely store the covers 1 that have been removed

6 Open the red release lever 2 as far as the stop will allow

7 Position the hardtop onto the supports with the help of a second person. Be sure to put the mountings exactly into the proper brackets



Lift the hardtop carefully. Be extremely careful not to shift the seals. Seals that have accidentally been shifted or pulled out cause leaks. ◀

8 In the back, close the red locking lever by turning to the inside as far as the stop located behind the trim will allow. Flip the cover panels back into place

9 To lock the hardtop in the front, keep pressing on the front locking levers until you hear them engage.

### Removal

Reverse the installation sequence to install the hardtop.


## Tire inflation pressures

### Information for your safety

The factory-approved radial tires are matched to the vehicle and have been selected to provide optimum safety and driving comfort on your vehicle.

It is not merely the tire's service life, but also driving comfort and – above all else – driving safety that depend on the condition of the tires and the maintenance of the specified tire pressure.

Incorrect inflation pressure is a frequent cause of tire damage. It also significantly influences the roadholding ability of your BMW.

 Check tire inflation pressures on a regular basis (refer to page 27), at least every two weeks and before beginning a longer trip. If this is not done, incorrect tire pressures can cause driving instability and tire damage, ultimately resulting in accidents. ◀

## Tire condition



### Tire tread – tire damage

Inspect your tires frequently for tread wear, signs of damage and for foreign objects lodged in the tread. Check the tread depth.

Tread depth should not be allowed to go below 0.12 in (3 mm), even though the legally specified minimum tread depth is only 0.063 in (1.6 mm). At a tread depth of 0.063 in (1.6 mm), tread depth indicators (arrow) in the tread-groove base will indicate that the legally permissible wear limit has been reached. Below 0.12 in (3 mm) tread depth, there is an increased risk of aquaplaning, even at relatively moderate speeds and with only small amounts of water on the road.



Do not drive on a deflated (flat) tire. A flat tire greatly impairs steering and braking response, and can lead to complete loss of control over the vehicle.

Avoid overloading the vehicle so that the permitted load on the tires is not exceeded. Overloading can lead to overheating and increases the rate at which damage develops inside the tires. You could have a blowout as a result.

Unusual vibrations encountered during normal vehicle operation can indicate a flat tire or some other vehicle defect. This is also true for irregularities in the vehicle's handling characteristics, such as a pronounced tendency to pull to the left or right. Should this occur, respond by immediately reducing your speed and carefully proceeding to the nearest BMW center or professional tire center, or having the vehicle towed in to have it and its tires inspected.

Tire damage (up to and including sudden and complete air loss) can endanger the lives of both the vehicle occupants and other road users. ◀

To maintain good handling and vehicle response, use only tires of a single tread configuration from a single manufacturer. BMW tests and approves wheel and tire combinations. Refer to page 120.

### **DOT Quality Grades**

Treadwear

Traction AA A B C

Temperature A B C



All passenger vehicle tires must conform to Federal Safety Requirements in addition to these grades. ◀

### **Tread wear**

The tread wear grade is a comparative rating based on the wear rate of the tire when tested under controlled conditions on a specified government test course.

For example, a tire graded 150 would wear one and one-half (1 ½) times as well on the government course as a tire graded 100. The relative performance of tires depends upon the actual conditions of their use, however, and may depart significantly from the norm due to variations in driving habits, service

practices and differences in road characteristics and climate.

### **Traction**

The traction grades, from highest to lowest, are AA, A, B, and C.

Those grades represent the tire's ability to stop on wet pavement as measured under controlled conditions on specified government test surfaces of asphalt and concrete. A tire marked C may have poor traction performance.



The traction grade assigned to this tire is based on straight-ahead braking traction tests, and does not include acceleration, cornering, hydroplaning, or peak traction characteristics. ◀

### **Temperature**

The temperature grades are A (the highest), B, and C, representing the tire's resistance to the generation of heat and its ability to dissipate heat when tested under controlled conditions on a specified indoor laboratory test wheel.

Sustained high temperature can cause the material of the tire to degenerate and reduce tire life, and excessive temperature can lead to sudden tire

failure. The grade C corresponds to a level of performance which all passenger vehicle tires must meet under the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 109. Grades B and A represent higher levels of performance on the laboratory test wheel than the minimum required by law.




The temperature grade for this tire is established for a tire that is properly inflated and not overloaded. Excessive speed, underinflation, or excessive loading, either separately or in combination, can cause heat buildup and possible tire failure. ◀

### **Uniform Tire Quality Grading**

Quality grades can be found where applicable on the tire sidewall between tread shoulder and maximum section width. For example:

Tread wear 200 Traction AA  
Temperature A

## Tire replacement

 Do not use retreaded tires. Driving safety may be impaired by their use. The reason for this are possible variations in tire casing structures and, in part, because they are already quite old, which can lead to a deterioration in their durability. ◀

### Tire age

The date on which the tire was manufactured is indicated by the code on the sidewall:

DOT ... 1101 means that the tire was produced in the 11th week of the year 2001.


BMW recommends replacing all tires after 6 years at the latest, even if a tire life of 10 years is possible.

Spare tires over 6 years old should be used only in case of emergency. A tire in this condition should be replaced by a new tire immediately, and should not be mounted together with new tires.

## Tire rotation

Re-initialize the Tire Pressure Warning (RDW) after rotating the tires. Refer to page [81](#) for further information.


### Summer tires

 Due to different tire sizes on the front and rear axles (refer to page [120](#)), the tires may not be rotated from one axle to the other. ◀


### Winter tires

The wheels are designed specifically for use at the front or rear only. Because the front and rear wheels feature different rim depths (refer to page [120](#)), you should never attempt to switch wheels from the front to rear or vice versa.

**The right choice**

 Only use wheels and tires that have been approved by BMW for the corresponding vehicle model, as otherwise body contact and serious accidents can result despite the use of the same nominal size, e.g. due to tolerances. BMW cannot evaluate non-approved wheels and tires to determine if they are suited for use, and therefore cannot ensure the operating safety of the vehicle if they are installed. ◀

For wheel and tire sizes approved by BMW, refer to page [120](#).

 Failure to use the specified wheel and tire combinations can have an adverse effect on the performance of various systems such as ABS and DSC. For this reason, use only tires made by the same manufacturer and that have the same tread configuration on the vehicle. And after a flat tire, for instance, restore the approved wheel and tire combination as soon as possible. ◀

**Codes on the tires and wheels**

The marking on the tire has the following meaning.

The codes on radial tires:

Example:                    225/45 R 18 92 W

Nominal width in mm	_____						
Aspect ratio in %	_____						
Radial tire ID code	_____						
Rim diameter in inches	_____						
Load rating	_____						
(not on ZR tires)	_____						
Speed rating	_____						
(before R on ZR tires)	_____						

The speed rating indicates the approved maximum speed for the tire.

Summer tires:

S = up to 112 mph (180 km/h)  
 T = up to 118 mph (190 km/h)  
 H = up to 130 mph (210 km/h)  
 V = up to 150 mph (240 km/h)  
 W = up to 167 mph (270 km/h)  
 Y = up to 187 mph (300 km/h)  
 ZR = over 150 mph (240 km/h)

Winter tires:

Q M+S = up to 100 mph (160 km/h)  
 T M+S = up to 118 mph (190 km/h)  
 H M+S = up to 130 mph (210 km/h)

Codes stamped on light-alloy wheels:

Example:                    8 J x 18 H 2

Rim width in inches	_____						
Code letter for flange type	_____						
Symbol for full-drop center rim	_____						
Rim diameter in inches	_____						
Hump on the 2 rim shoulders	_____						

Protect tire valve from dirt by using screw-on valve stem caps. Dirt in the valves frequently leads to slow leaks.

**Storage**

Always store tires in a cool, dry place. Store them away from light whenever possible. Protect the tires against contact with oil, grease and fuel.

### Choosing the right tire

BMW recommends winter tires (M+S radial tires) for driving in adverse winter road conditions. So-called all-season tires with the M+S identification mark do indeed possess better winter traction than summer tires that have the H, V, W, Y and ZR speed ratings, but they generally fail to provide the same levels of performance as winter tires.

In the interest of safe tracking and steering response, install winter tires made by the same manufacturer with the same tread configuration on all four wheels.

### Do not exceed specified maximum speeds



Never exceed the maximum speed for which the tires are rated.

Unprofessional attempts by laymen to service tires can lead to damage and accidents.

Have this work performed by skilled professionals only. Any BMW center has the required technical knowledge and the proper equipment and will be happy to assist you. ◀

### Tire condition, tire pressure

Once winter tires wear to a tread depth of less than 0.16 in (4 mm), their performance under winter driving conditions deteriorates noticeably. Worn tires should therefore be replaced to ensure continued safety.

Inflate tires to specified pressure and have the wheels balanced every time the tires or wheels have been rotated; re-initialize the Tire Pressure Warning system (RDW) as well. Refer to page 81 for further information.

## Snow chains\*

Use narrow-link BMW snow chains on winter tires in pairs only and only on the rear wheels. Comply with all manufacturer's safety precautions when mounting the chains.



Deactivate the Tire Pressure Warning system (RDW) when using snow chains. Malfunction warnings and undetected losses in pressure are a possibility when driving with snow chains.

For further information, refer to page 81. ◀

## 120 Approved wheel and tire specifications

Depending on the tire size, certain tire brands tested by BMW have been classified and approved as safe in traffic. Contact your BMW center for a list of these tires.

Observe any country-specific regulations, e.g. on making a corresponding entry in the vehicle documents.

Tire specifications	Light-alloy wheel
<b>BMW M3 convertible</b>	
<b>Summer tires</b>	
Front: 225/45 ZR 18	8J x 18 EH2
Rear: 255/40 ZR 18	9J x 18 EH2
Front: 225/40 ZR 19	8J x 19 EH2
Rear: 255/35 ZR 19	9.5J x 19 EH2
<b>Winter tires (M+S)</b>	
Front: 225/45 R 17 91 H	7.5J x 17 EH2 IS47
Rear: 225/45 R 17 91 H	7.5J x 17 EH2 IS25

### Snow chains\*

It is not possible to mount snow chains on tires with 18-/19-inch wheels.



Deactivate the Tire Pressure Warning system (RDW) when using snow chains. Malfunction warnings and undetected losses in pressure are a possibility when driving with snow chains.


For further information, refer to page [81](#). ◀

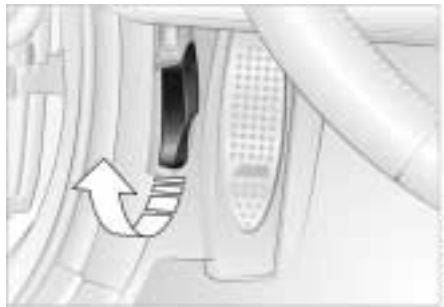
### Winter tires



When selecting winter tires, always remember the different rim depths on the front and rear wheels. Failure to mount the tires approved for each wheel can lead to damage. ◀

## Hood

 Do not work on your vehicle without appropriate skills. Always switch off the engine and allow it to cool down before working in the engine compartment. Always disconnect the battery before working on any electrical systems or equipment, especially when these are located within the engine compartment. Comply with all applicable instructions and warnings. Failure to work in an informed, professional manner when servicing components and materials constitutes a safety hazard for vehicle occupants and other road users. If you are not familiar with the guidelines, please have the operations performed by your BMW center. ◀



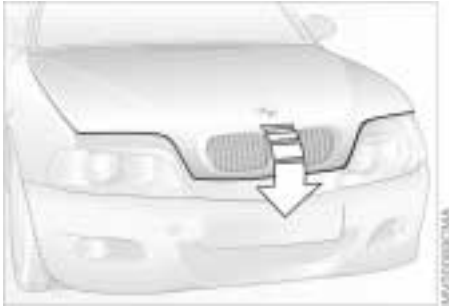
### To unlock

Pull the lever located under the left-hand side of the instrument panel.




### To open

Pull the release handle and open the hood.



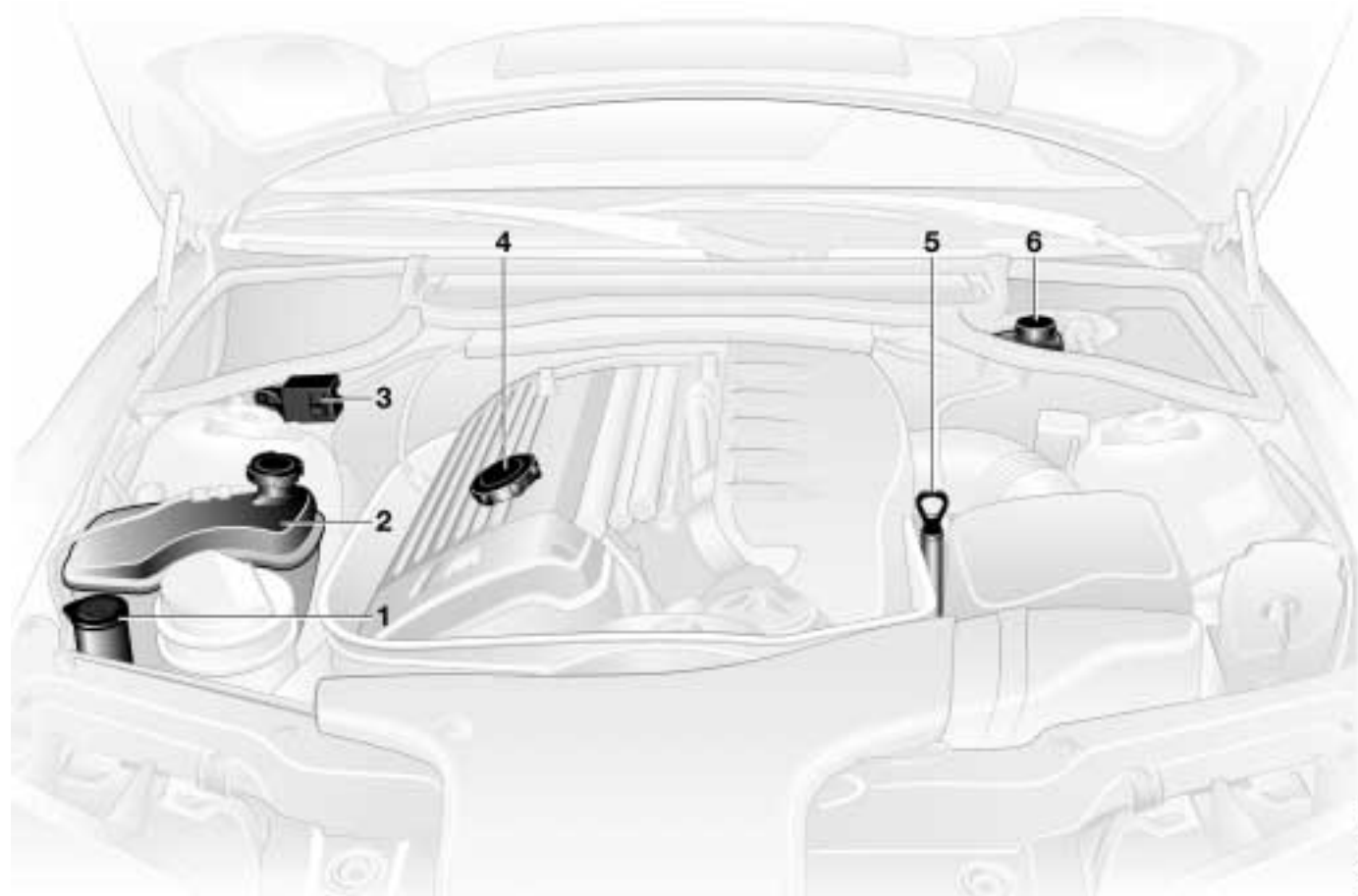
### **To close**

Lower the hood and then allow it to fall the last few inches. You should hear the lock mechanism engage. Then attempt to move the hood above the left and right headlamps to ensure that the lock has engaged securely.

 To avoid injuries, be sure that the travel path of the hood is clear when it is closed, as with all closing procedures. If it is determined that the hood is not completely closed while driving, stop immediately and close it securely. ◀



## 124 Engine compartment



# Engine compartment


- 1 Filler neck for headlamp and windshield washer system [126](#)
- 2 Coolant expansion tank [129](#)
- 3 Auxiliary terminal for jump-starting – positive terminal [164](#)
- 4 Engine oil filler cap [127](#)
- 5 Engine oil dipstick [127](#)
- 6 Brake fluid reservoir [130](#)



### **Headlamp\* and windshield washer system**

Capacity: approx. 5.6 US quarts (5.3 liters).

Fill with water and – if required – with a washer antifreeze (according to manufacturer's recommendations).

 It is more convenient to mix the washer fluid before adding it to the reservoir. ◀



Antifreeze for the washer systems is flammable. For this reason, keep it away from sources of flame and store it in its original container. Store it out of reach of children. Comply with the instructions on the containers. ◀

## **Washer nozzles**

### **Headlamp washer system**

Have this system adjusted by your BMW center as required.

### **Windshield washer system**

The spray nozzles are not adjustable.



As with fuel economy, oil consumption is directly influenced by your driving style and vehicle operating conditions.

The oil volume between the two marks on the dipstick corresponds to approx. 1.4 US quarts (1.3 liters).

## Checking oil level

- 1 Park the vehicle on a level surface
- 2 Shut the engine off after it has reached normal operating temperature
- 3 After approx. one minute, pull the dipstick out and wipe it off with a clean lint-free cloth, paper towel, or similar material
- 4 Carefully push the dipstick all the way into the guide tube and pull it out again
- 5 The oil level should be between the two marks on the dipstick.




## Adding engine oil

Wait until the level has dropped to just above the lower mark before adding oil. However, never let the oil drop below the lower mark.


Do not fill beyond the upper mark on the dipstick. Excess oil will damage the engine.


To obtain a correct reading when rechecking the oil level after adding lubricant, start the engine and allow it to run, then switch it off and proceed as described in the section on "Checking oil level".

 BMW engines are designed to operate without oil additives; the use of additives could lead to damage in some cases. This is also true for the

manual transmission, the differential, and the power steering system. ◀

Recommendation: have the oil changed by your BMW center only.

 Continuous exposure to used oil has caused cancer in laboratory testing. For this reason, thoroughly wash any areas of skin that come into contact with oil using soap and water. Always store oils, grease and similar materials so that they are inaccessible to children. Comply with warning labels and information on containers. ◀

 Comply with the applicable environmental laws regulating the disposal of used oil. ◀


### Specified engine oils

The quality of the engine oil is extremely important for the function and life of an engine. Based on extensive testing, BMW approves only certain types of engine oil.

Use only approved "BMW High Performance Synthetic Oil."

If you are unable to obtain "BMW High Performance Synthetic Oil," you may use small volumes of other approved

synthetic oils for topping up between oil changes. Use only oils with the specification API SH or higher.


 Ask your BMW center for details concerning the specific "BMW High Performance Synthetic Oil" or synthetic oils that have been approved. ◀

You can also call BMW of North America at 1-800-831-1117 or visit this website: [www.bmwusa.com](http://www.bmwusa.com) to obtain this information.

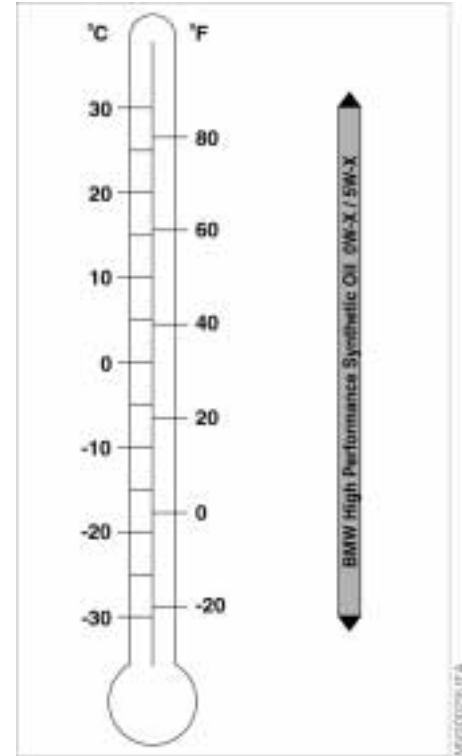
### Viscosity ratings

Viscosity is the oil flow rating as defined in SAE classes.


The selection of the correct SAE class depends on the climatic conditions in the area where you drive your BMW.

 Approved oils are in SAE classes 5W-40 and 5W-30. ◀

These kinds of oil may be used for driving in all ambient temperatures.



## Coolant

 Do not add coolant to the cooling system when the engine is hot. If you do, escaping coolant can cause scalds.

To avoid the possibility of damage later on, never use anything other than factory-approved, nitrite and amino-free extended-duty antifreeze with corrosion inhibitor. Your BMW center is familiar with the official specifications. Antifreeze and anticorrosion agents are hazardous to health. You should always store it in its original container and in a location which is out of reach of children. Extended-duty antifreeze with corrosion inhibitor contains ethylene glycol, a flammable substance. For this reason, do not spill long-life antifreeze with corrosion inhibitor on hot engine parts. It could catch fire and cause serious burns. ◀



### Checking the coolant level and adding coolant

Check the coolant level when the engine is cold (approx. 68 °F or +20 °C). The coolant gauge needle in the instrument cluster must be located in the blue field; otherwise you could be scalded when adding more fluid.


- 1 Open the cap for the expansion tank by turning it slightly counterclockwise to allow accumulated pressure to escape. Then open.
- 2 The coolant level is correct whenever the upper end of the red float rod is aligned with the upper edge of the filler neck (refer to the arrow in the illustration and the schematic diagram next to the filler neck as well).

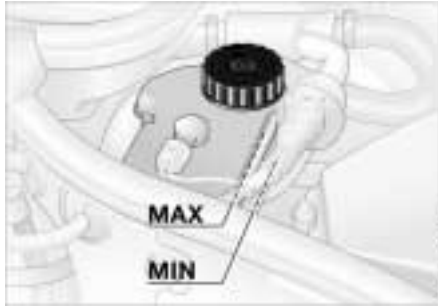
3 If necessary, add coolant. If the coolant is low, slowly add coolant until the correct level is reached – do not overfill.

The coolant is a mixture of water and extended-duty antifreeze with corrosion inhibitor. Always maintain the prescribed all-season 50:50 mixture ratio for year-round protection against internal corrosion. No other additives are required.

### Change the coolant

Replace the coolant every three years.

 Comply with the applicable environmental laws regulating the disposal of extended-duty antifreeze with corrosion inhibitor. ◀



If the brake warning lamp comes on and the parking brake has been released: check the brake fluid level and if necessary, fill it up to the "MAX" mark.

For adding brake fluid or for determining and correcting the cause of brake fluid loss, consult your BMW center. Your BMW center is familiar with the specifications for factory-approved brake fluids (DOT 4).

Low brake fluid levels can result in increased pedal travel along with reduced braking efficiency. Comply with the instructions on page 109.



Brake fluid is hygroscopic, that is, it absorbs moisture from the air over time.

In order to ensure the brake system's safety and reliability, have the brake fluid changed every two years by a BMW center. Refer also to pages 75 and 159 and to the Service and Warranty Information Booklet (US models) or the Warranty and Service Guide Booklet (Canadian models). Brake fluid is toxic and damages the vehicle's paint. You should always store it in its original container and in a location which is out of reach of children. Do not spill the fluid and do not fill the brake fluid reservoir beyond the "MAX" mark. The brake fluid could ignite upon contact with hot engine parts and cause serious burns. ◀



Comply with the applicable environmental laws regulating the disposal of brake fluid. ◀



In the engine compartment, on the right-hand strut dome (arrow).

# The BMW Maintenance System



The BMW Maintenance System has been designed as a reliable means of providing maximum driving and operating safety – and as cost-effectively as possible for you.

Please keep in mind that regular maintenance is not only necessary for the safety of your vehicle, but also plays a significant role in maintaining the resale value of the vehicle.

## Service Interval Display

Advanced technology is employed to calculate the optimal maintenance intervals. These are then indicated in the Service Interval Display. While conventional systems rely solely on distance traveled to determine when service is due, the BMW Maintenance

System considers the actual conditions under which the vehicle operates, because miles can be traveled in many different ways:

From the point of view of maintenance, for example, 62,000 miles (100,000 km) short-distance driving are not equal to the same 62,000 miles (100,000 km) of long-distance travel.

The BMW Maintenance System includes the Engine Oil Service and Inspections I and II.


Determining the maintenance intervals according to the actual use of the vehicle covers every kind of operating situation. Those who are outright "Sunday drivers," driving fewer than 6,000 miles (10,000 km) per year – should, nevertheless have their oil changed every 2 years at the most, no matter what the Service Interval Display indicates, since engine oil breaks down over time, regardless of use.

## Service and Warranty Information Booklet (US models)/Warranty and Service Guide Booklet (Canadian models)

For additional information on required maintenance intervals and procedures, please refer to the Service and

Warranty Information Booklet (US models), or the Warranty and Service Guide Booklet (Canadian models).

As a precaution against rust, it is advisable to have the body checked for damage from rocks or gravel at the same time, depending upon operating conditions.

 Have your BMW center perform maintenance and repair. Your BMW center is always informed on the latest maintenance work and repair techniques and equipped with the required special tools. In addition, checking parts known from experience to be subject to wear is a permanent part of the maintenance specifications. Be sure that all maintenance work is confirmed in the Service and Warranty Information Booklet (US models), or in the Warranty and Service Guide Booklet (Canadian models). These entries are your verification for the regular maintenance of your vehicle and are required for the performance of warranty repairs. ◀

**Washing your vehicle**

You can wash your BMW at an automatic car wash, even when it is new. Car wash systems that do not employ brushes are preferable.


Wipe away tough dirt and loosen and remove dead insects before washing the vehicle.

In order to avoid spots, do not wash the vehicle when the hood is warm, or during or immediately after exposure to strong sunlight.

When using an automatic car wash, be sure that:


- ▷ The car wash system is suited for the dimensions of your vehicle.
- ▷ No damage will occur on vehicles with attached body accessories (such as spoilers or antennas). Consult the car wash operator if necessary.
- ▷ The wheels and tires of your vehicle cannot be damaged by the conveyance devices of the car wash system.
- ▷ The vehicle is cleaned with minimum brush pressure, and that plenty of water is available for washing and rinsing.

Vehicles with rain sensor\*: Clean the windshield regularly. Wax from automatic car washes or insects can cause malfunctions in the rain sensor\* function.


 Turn the rain sensor off (refer to page 69) when going through an automatic car wash, otherwise, damage could occur from unintended wiper activation. ◀

Parts of the vehicle that are inaccessible to the automatic washer – such as door sills, door and hood edges, etc. – should be cleaned by hand.


In the winter months, it is especially important to be sure that the vehicle is washed on a regular basis. Large quantities of dirt and road salt are difficult to remove, and they also damage the vehicle.

 If spray wands or high-pressure washers are used, be sure to maintain an adequate distance between the spray source and the vehicle's surface. Inadequate distance and excessive pressure can damage or weaken the finish, making it more susceptible to subsequent attack. In addition, moisture could penetrate to

vehicle components, leading to long-term damage. ◀

 When cleaning the headlamps, please observe the following:

- ▷ Do not clean by wiping with a dry cloth (this causes scratches). Never use abrasives or strong solvents to clean the covers.
- ▷ Remove dirt and contamination (such as insects) by soaking with BMW Car Shampoo and then rinsing with plenty of water.
- ▷ Always use a deicer spray to remove accumulated ice and snow – never use a scraper. ◀

 After washing the vehicle, apply the brakes briefly to dry them. Braking efficiency might otherwise be reduced by the moisture and the brake discs could also corrode. ◀

## Caring for your vehicle

### Exterior finish

To provide effective corrosion protection, multilayer paintwork is applied at the factory. Cathaphoretic immersion priming techniques are supplemented with special body-cavity protectants and application of specially developed and extensively tested materials. A layer of flexible PVC is first applied to the undercarriage. Following this, a comprehensive undercoating treatment with a wax-based protectant is applied. Regular maintenance makes an important contribution to maintaining the safety and value of your vehicle.

Increasing awareness of the effects of harmful environmental factors on vehicle finishes have led paint and vehicle manufacturers to initiate ongoing programs designed to further improve the durability of their finishes. Despite this, regional environmental factors can have negative effects on your vehicle's finish. Consider these factors in determining the frequency and extent of your efforts to maintain the vehicle finish.

Depending upon material and type of impact (perforation of paint layer), physical stresses from sand, road salt, gravel, etc., can cause corrosion to

start extending beneath the finish, starting at the point of impact.

Road dirt, tar spots, dead insects, animal droppings (strong alkali effect) and tree excretions (resins and pollen) all contain substances capable of causing damage when allowed to remain on the finish of your vehicle for any period of time. This includes spots, etching, flaking, and separations in the top coat.

In industrial areas, deposits of flue dust, lime, oily soot, precipitation containing sulfur-dioxide (acid rain) and other environmental pollutants will damage the vehicle's finish unless adequate care is provided – even though this is generally limited to the outside horizontal surfaces.

In coastal regions, high levels of atmospheric salt and humidity promote corrosion.


In tropical zones, high humidity and heavy ultraviolet radiation prevail, in addition to temperatures of over 105 °F (+40 °C) in the shade. Under these conditions, light paints can reach temperatures up to 175 °F (+80 °C) and dark ones up to 250 °F (+120 °C).

### Caring for the vehicle finish

Regular washing is a preventive measure against long-term effects from substances that are harmful to the vehicle's finish, especially if you drive your vehicle in areas with high levels of air pollution or aggressive natural substances (tree resins, pollen).

Nevertheless, you should immediately remove especially aggressive substances. Failure to do so can lead to changes in the paint's chemical structure or to discoloration. Gasoline spilled during refueling, oil, grease and brake fluid should always be cleaned away immediately, as should bird droppings.

Any contamination remaining on the surface of the vehicle will be especially conspicuous after washing. Use cleaning fluid or alcohol with a clean cloth or cotton pad to remove these stains. Remove tar spots with tar remover. After cleaning, the affected areas should be waxed to ensure continued protection.

 Use the cleaning and car-care products available at your BMW center. ◀

### **Waxing your car**

Protect the finish using only carnauba or synthetic-based waxes.

The best way to determine when the finish needs to be waxed is by noting when water stops beading on the surface.

You can use a glass cleaner to remove any wax or silicone that may have been left on the windows during waxing.



Use the cleaning and car-care products available at your BMW center. ◀

### **Paint damage**

You can touch up small areas of paint damage with a BMW spray paint or a BMW touchup stick.

The paint color code for your vehicle is provided on a sticker located on the right hand side under the hood and on the first page of your Service and Warranty Information Booklet (US models) or Warranty and Service Guide Booklet (Canadian models).

Damage caused by flying stones, scratches, etc., must be touched up without delay to prevent rust from forming.

If corrosion has started to form in an area with paint damage, remove all rust and clean the area. Then prime the area with a BMW Primer Stick. Finally, apply the finish coat. Wait a few days, then polish the repaired area. Finish by applying a wax preservative.

More extensive paint damage should be repaired professionally in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Your BMW center uses original BMW finish materials in accordance with approved repair procedures.

### **Window care**

You can use window and glass cleaner to clean inside window surfaces and mirrors without smearing and streaking. Never use polishing pastes or abrasive (quartz) cleansers on mirror lenses.

Clean the wiper blades with soapy water. The wiper blades should be replaced twice a year – before and after the cold season. This is especially important for vehicles equipped with a rain sensor\*.



Use only wiper blades approved by BMW. ◀

### **Caring for other vehicle components and materials**

Light-alloy wheels should be treated with alloy wheel cleaner, especially during the winter months. However, do not use aggressive products containing acids, strong alkalis or abrasives. Do not use steam cleaners operating at temperatures above 140 °F (+60 °C). Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

If your vehicle has chrome parts\* such as window moldings, door handles or similar items, clean these parts carefully with ample clean water, and possibly a shampoo additive, especially if there is

## Caring for your vehicle

an accumulation of road salt. Use a chrome polish for an additional treatment.

Plastic components, vinyl upholstery, headliners, lamp lenses, the clear cover of the instrument cluster and components with a sprayed matt black surface can be cleaned with water (add plastic shampoo as required). Do not allow moisture to soak through the seats or headliner. Never use solvents such as lacquer thinner, heavy-duty grease remover, fuels, or similar substances.

Rubber components should be cleaned with water only; a rubber treatment or silicone spray may also be applied.

Do not remove safety belts to clean them. Clean them with mild soapy water only. Do not use chemicals or dry cleaners to clean safety belts, since this could damage the belt fabric.

After cleaning, never allow the inertia reel to retract the belts until they are completely dry. Dirty safety belts prevent the inertia reel mechanism from retracting the strap properly, and thus constitute a safety hazard.

Heavily soiled floor carpets and mats\* can be cleaned with an interior cleaner. The floor mats can be removed from the vehicle for cleaning.

Use only a damp cloth to clean trim panels made of real wood\* and other parts constructed of real wood\*. Follow up by drying with a soft cloth.



Use the cleaning and car-care products available at your BMW center. ◀

### Care of upholstery materials

Depressions in the upholstery that result from everyday use can be brushed smooth by brushing against the nap with a lightly dampened brush.

The tendency of the pile to lie in a particular direction on velour upholstery is not a quality defect, and, just as on home textiles or clothing, cannot be avoided.

Lint on upholstery materials, textile or leather remnants that have been worn into the upholstery may be removed with a lint brush or a Velcro brush. A cleaning glove is available for particularly "stubborn" lint. Stains and fairly large areas of dirt should be cleaned off without delay, using lukewarm water and an interior cleaner, stain remover or appropriate cleaning fluid. Brush the fabric afterwards to restore its appearance.

If the vehicle will be stored for an extended period or if it is exposed to intense sunlight, cover all the seats or the windows to prevent fading.



Use the cleaning and car-care products available at your BMW center. ◀

The buildup of an electrostatic charge on the seat covers, particularly if atmospheric humidity is low, can give the occupants an unpleasant electric shock if they touch metal body parts after leaving the vehicle. Although this is not dangerous in any way, it can be avoided by touching a bare or polished metal part of the vehicle while getting out.

### **Alcantara\***

Clean using a gentle detergent, taking care not to rub or scratch. Then finish off by wiping it with a wet cloth.

### **Leather care**

The leather upholstery\* used by BMW is a natural product of the highest quality, processed using state-of-the-art methods to ensure that it will maintain its high quality for years to come, provided that it is properly cared for.

Because this product is manufactured using natural materials, you must make allowance for its particular characteristics and for the special care and attention this material needs in daily use.

Regular periodic cleaning and care are essential, as dust and road dirt act as abrasives in the pores and creases of

the material. This leads to wear spots and premature brittleness of the leather surface. We therefore suggest that you clean the leather with a vacuum cleaner or dust cloth at frequent intervals.

For cleaning, use BMW leather cleaning foam.

Since dirt and grease gradually attack the protective layer of the leather, the cleaned surfaces should be treated with BMW leather care agent. This also acts as an antistatic agent.

For protection against dampness or moisture, treat the leather with a BMW impregnating agent.

We recommend that you perform this procedure twice a year on leather exposed to normal use.

Spills should be wiped up immediately. Remove grease and oil stains by dabbing with spot remover. Avoid rubbing.

If the upholstery is exposed to intense sunlight or if the vehicle is going to be left parked for an extended period of time, cover all leather surfaces or all the windows to prevent fading.



Use the cleaning and car-care products available at your BMW center. ◀



Cleaning agents can contain substances that are dangerous or that pose health risks. For this reason, always comply with the warnings and danger notices on the packaging. Open the doors or windows on your vehicle when cleaning the interior. Never clean your vehicle with solvents or other materials not specifically intended for this purpose. ◀

## Care

The appearance and life of the convertible top depend in large part on proper care and handling. You should pay particular attention to the following instructions if your vehicle has a light-colored top.

Whenever possible, protect the vehicle from exposure to intense sunlight by parking it in the shade so that the paint, rubber and fabric-covered parts are not harmed.

Never fold up the convertible top and store it in the convertible top compartment when wet, dirty or frozen, as mildew stains and rub spots may result.

To prevent mildew stains, do not keep the convertible top enclosed in the convertible top compartment for any extended period of time.

If the vehicle will be parked for lengthy periods in an enclosed space, be sure that the convertible top is dry and that there is adequate ventilation.

Clean off bird droppings immediately, since they attack the convertible top and cause the rubber seals to swell due to their caustic characteristics.

Besides water, treat rubber seals only with talcum powder, rubber care prod-

ucts or silicone spray, particularly when they feel dry or tend to stick.

Eliminate noises such as squeaks with lubricant spray.

Depressions and discoloration may occur in the convertible top as a result of improper maintenance and cleaning or as the result of stresses from excessive use. The convertible top and its seams may also develop leaks. The warranty does not cover these situations. For repairs, please consult your BMW center.

## Washing your vehicle

You can wash your BMW M3 convertible in automatic car washes. Car wash systems that do not employ brushes are preferable.

If a brushless car wash is unavailable and a brush car wash must be used, modern systems with soft brushes are preferable. Do not select the wax finish option. The small amount of beading wax always used in automatic car washes will not harm your vehicle's finish.

In the case of more extensive dirt, which is definitely visible on light-colored top materials, clean the top with the BMW Convertible Cleaning Set. Please proceed as follows:

Spray the convertible top with the cleaning agent and then rub with a well-dampened sponge using circular motions until a foam develops. Then you can finish washing the vehicle in an automatic car wash. After washing your vehicle 3 to 5 times, you should treat the convertible top with a special convertible top impregnating spray. Please follow the instructions on the spray can.

## 138 Cleaning and caring for the convertible top

Do not use spot removers, paint thinners, solvents, gasoline or similar substances for removing spots from the convertible top or from the rear window. These materials destroy the rubber seals, which will lead to leaks. Use only BMW approved cleaners.



Cleaning agents can contain substances that are dangerous or that pose health risks. For this reason, always comply with the warnings and danger notices on the packaging. Open the doors or windows on your vehicle when cleaning the interior. Never clean your vehicle with solvents or other materials not specifically intended for this purpose. ◀



### Positioning for cleaning

For unhindered access to the convertible top compartment, lean the rear convertible top frame against the convertible top compartment lid (see illustration).

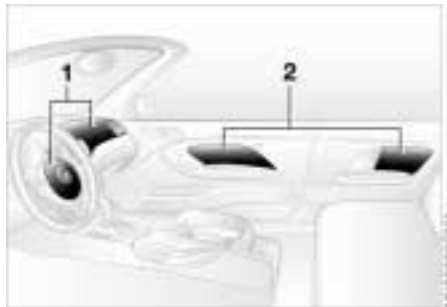


Release the convertible top lid locks beforehand with the button for convertible top operation, refer to page 46. ◀

### Hardtop\*


Please observe and follow the instructions for caring for your vehicle starting on page 132.

# Airbags



- 1 Front airbags on the driver and passenger side
- 2 Side airbags on the driver and passenger side (front and rear\*)

## Important safety notices

 Do not attempt to remove the gas generators of the airbag supplemental restraint system from the vehicle. Have testing and service procedures performed by specially-qualified technicians only. In the event of a malfunction, deactivation, or triggered actuation (as a response to an accident) of the airbag restraint system, consult your BMW center for repairs or service operations.

No modifications may be made on either the wiring or to individual compo-

nents. This also includes the upholstered covers on the steering wheel, on the instrument panel, in the door side trim panels or in the rear. Never apply adhesive materials to these components or cover or modify them in any way. Do not attempt to remove or dismantle the steering wheel.

To ensure compliance with official safety regulations, entrust disposal of airbag generators to a BMW center. Unprofessional attempts to service the system could lead to failure in an emergency or undesired airbag activation, either of which could result in personal injury. ◀



If you intend to store the vehicle for more than 3 months, be sure to follow the maintenance instructions on this page. ◀

### **Storage preparations**

Have your BMW center perform the following procedures:

- 1 Clean and apply a rustproofing agent or other treatment to the engine, engine compartment, undercarriage, axles and major components in accordance with approved repair procedures. First wash the vehicle surface, then clean the interior, following up with paint- and chrome care, after which you clean the rubber seals for the hood and doors.
- 2 Change the engine oil and oil filter with the engine warm. As an additional corrosion protection measure, an anticorrosive agent can be added to the engine in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 3 Check the coolant level and concentration, top up if necessary.
- 4 Check the fluid level of the windshield washer fluid reservoir; top up if necessary.
- 5 Fill the fuel tank completely to prevent the formation of condensation.

- 6 Increase the tire inflation pressure to 51 psi (350 Kilopascal).

### **Before parking the vehicle**

- 1 To prevent the brake discs and drums from corroding, dry the parking and footbrake by applying the brakes.
- 2 Park the vehicle in a covered, dry, and well-ventilated area. Place the transmission in first gear or, if necessary, chock the wheels to prevent the vehicle from rolling. Do not set the parking brake.
- 3 Remove the battery, charge it completely and store it in a cool (but frost-free) room.
- 4 Remove the hardtop and store it separately. Refer to page 114.
- 5 Close the convertible top.

### **During storage**

Recharge the battery every six months. If it is not recharged, it will not be useable. Every time the battery is discharged, especially over extended periods, its service life is reduced.

### **Removing the vehicle from storage**

Recharge the battery if the "Magic Eye\*" turns black. Refer to page 157.


Then have Inspection I performed by your BMW center, including a brake fluid replacement if necessary.

## Technical modifications

Any BMW center will be happy to advise you concerning the advisability, legal implications and factory recommendations for technical modifications to the vehicle. For this purpose, the BMW center will require the Vehicle Identification Number and, in some cases, the engine number as well.


### Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)

Light-emitting diodes installed behind translucent lenses serve as the light source for many of the controls and displays in your vehicle. The concept behind their operation is related to that employed for lasers, and they are officially designated as Class 1 light-emitting diodes.

 Do not remove the protective lens and avoid staring directly at the unfiltered beam for extended periods (several hours). To do so could result in inflammation of the iris. ◀

## California Proposition 65 Warning

California laws require us to state the following warning:

 Engine exhaust, some of its constituents, and certain vehicle components contain or emit chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. ◀



The data link connector for onboard diagnostics is located on the left-hand side of the driver's side, on the underside of the instrument panel and under a cover panel. The cover has the letters "OBD" on it.

The purpose of the OBD system is to assure proper emission control system operation for the vehicle's lifetime by monitoring emission-related components and systems for deterioration and malfunction.



An illuminated indicator informs you of the need for service, not that you need to stop the vehicle. Your system should be checked, however, at the earliest possible opportunity.

If the indicator blinks or flashes, this indicates a high level of engine misfire. Reduce speed and contact your nearest BMW center immediately. Severe engine misfiring over even a short period of time can seriously damage emission control system components, especially the catalytic converter.



"Service Engine Soon" warning lamp for Canadian models.

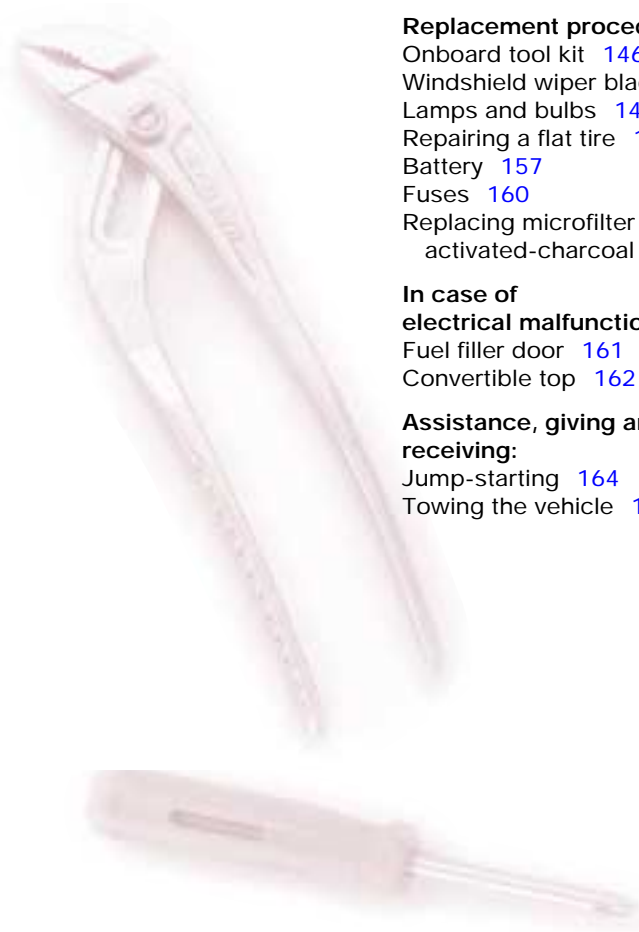


If the fuel filler cap is not on tight enough, the OBD system can detect leaking vapor and the indicator will light up.

If the fuel filler cap is then tightened, the indicator will usually go out after a short period of time. ◀





**Replacement procedures:**

- Onboard tool kit [146](#)
- Windshield wiper blades [146](#)
- Lamps and bulbs [146](#)
- Repairing a flat tire [153](#)
- Battery [157](#)
- Fuses [160](#)
- Replacing microfilter and activated-charcoal filter [161](#)

**In case of electrical malfunction:**

- Fuel filler door [161](#)
- Convertible top [162](#)

**Assistance, giving and receiving:**

- Jump-starting [164](#)
- Towing the vehicle [165](#)

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The onboard tool kit is located in the luggage compartment lid.


Loosen the wingnut to open.

Tow fitting storage location, refer to page [165](#).

## Windshield wiper blades




- 1 Fold the wiper arm completely out from the windshield.
- 2 Position the wiper blade at an angle and pull the release spring (arrow).
- 3 Fold the wiper blade down and unhook it toward the windshield.
- 4 Pull the wiper blade past the wiper arm toward the top.
- 5 Insert a new wiper blade and apply pressure until you hear it engage.


 Use only BMW approved wiper blades. ◀

## Lamps and bulbs

The lamps and bulbs make essential contributions to the safety of your vehicle. For this reason, follow the instructions below carefully when replacing a bulb. If you are not familiar with any of the procedures, consult your BMW center.

 Do not touch the glass portion of a new bulb with your bare hands since even small amounts of impurities burn into the surface and reduce the service life of the bulb. Use a clean cloth, paper napkin, or a similar material, or hold the bulb by its metallic base. ◀

A replacement bulb set is available from your BMW center.


 Whenever working on the electrical system, switch off the electrical accessory you are working on or disconnect the cable from the negative terminal of the battery. Failure to do this could result in short circuits.

To prevent injuries and damage when changing a bulb, be sure to comply with any instructions provided by the bulb manufacturer. ◀

## Lamps and bulbs

### Low beam headlamps and high beam headlamps

- ▷ Low beam headlamps: H7 bulb, 55 watts
- ▷ High beam headlamps: H7 bulb, 55 watts

 The H7 bulb is pressurized. Therefore, wear safety glasses and protective gloves. Failure to comply with this precaution could lead to injury if the bulb is damaged during replacement. ◀

Please contact a BMW center in case of a malfunction.

### Parking lamps

5 watt bulb

Please contact a BMW center in case of a malfunction.



When cleaning the headlamps, please observe the following:

- ▷ Do not clean by wiping with a dry cloth (scratches). Never use abrasives or strong solvents to clean the covers
- ▷ Remove dirt and contamination (such as insects) by soaking with BMW Car Shampoo and then rinsing with plenty of water.

Always use a deicer spray to remove accumulated ice and snow – never use a scraper. ◀

### Xenon lamps\*

The service life of these bulbs is very long and the probability of a failure is very low, provided that they are not switched on and off an unusual number of times. If one of these bulbs should nevertheless fail, it is possible to continue driving with great caution using the fog lamps, provided traffic laws in your area do not prohibit this.



Because of the extremely high voltages involved, any work on the xenon lighting system should be carried out by technically-qualified personnel only. Otherwise, there is a risk of fatal injury. ◀



### **Front turn signal indicators**

21 watt bulb

- 1 Using a screwdriver, release the inner hook through the upper opening.
- 2 Remove lamp by pulling it out toward the front.
- 3 Applying light pressure, turn the bulb to the left. Remove and exchange the bulb.

4 Insert the 2 pins on the lamp into the guides on the vehicle.

- 5 Push the lamp in. Carefully apply pressure until you hear it snap into place.

### **Side turn signal indicators**

5 watt bulb

- 1 Use finger pressure against the rear end of the lamp (arrow) to press it forward for removal.
- 2 Apply gentle pressure to the bulb while turning it to the left to remove.



## Fog lamps

HB4 bulb, 51 watt

**⚠** The bulb is pressurized. Therefore, wear safety glasses and protective gloves. Failure to comply with this precaution could lead to injury if the bulb is accidentally damaged during replacement. ◀

- 1 Pull the headlamp cover forward to remove.
- 2 Loosen the screw (arrow) and pivot the headlamp outward.
- 3 Release the spring on the rear of the headlamp and swivel the cover to the left.
- 4 Release the clip, pull off the terminal caps and replace the bulb.

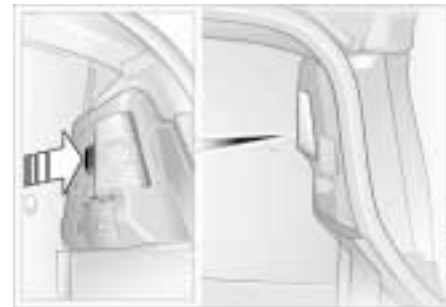


## Tail lamp assembly

Tail lamp 4: bulbs 21/4 watts  
 Remaining bulbs: 21 watts

- 1 Turn signal
- 2 Backup lamp
- 3 Tail lamp
- 4 Tail lamp/Brake lamp

yellow  
 white  
 red  
 red

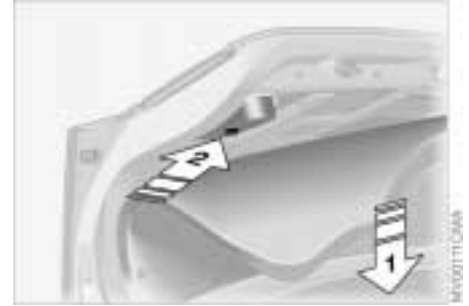


The illustration shows the right-hand luggage compartment opening.

## Bulbs in the fender

All of the bulbs are integrated in a central bulb holder.

- 1 Release the bulb holder (arrow).



- 2 Take out the bulb holder.
- 3 Disconnect the power supply plug. Set the bulb holder aside (on the luggage compartment floor, for example).
- 4 Apply light pressure while turning the bulb to the left. Remove and exchange the bulb.
- 5 Plug in the power supply receptacle.
- 6 Reattach the bulb holder until you hear it snap into place (illustration).

### **Bulbs in the luggage compartment lid**

- 1 Using a screwdriver, loosen the clip.

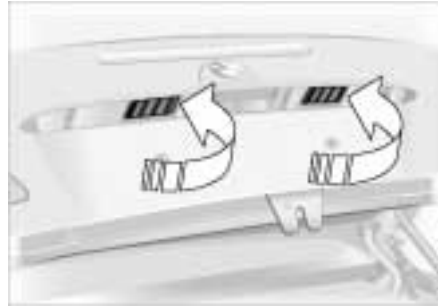
- 2 Fold the trim panel down (arrow 1). Disengage the bulb holder (arrow 2) and remove it.
- 3 Apply light pressure while turning the bulb to the left. Remove and exchange the bulb.
- 4 Press the bulb holder into position until you hear it engage.
- 5 Reinstall the trim with the clip.



## Center (high-mount) brake lamp

LED strip in luggage compartment lid.

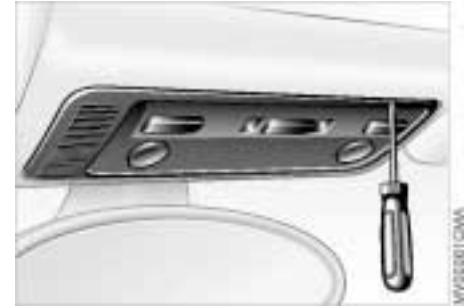
Please contact a BMW center in case of a malfunction.



## License plate lamps

5 watt bulb

- 1 Place a screwdriver in the slot and press toward the left (arrow) to release the lens.
- 2 Replace the bulb.



## Interior lamps

Front:

Interior lamps (6 watt bulb)

Reading lamps (2 x 6 watt bulbs)

- 1 Using a screwdriver, press the lamp out toward the front.
- 2 Turn the bulb holder to the left and remove.
- 3 Remove and replace the bulb.



Rear (only with hardtop\*):

Interior lamp (6 watt bulb)

Reading lamp (6 watt bulb)

- 1 Press the lamp out using a screwdriver.
- 2 Turn the bulb holder to the left and remove.
- 3 Remove and replace the bulb.

### **Footwell lamps**

5 watt bulb

- 1 Press the lamp out using a screwdriver.
- 2 Replace the bulb.

### **Glove compartment lamp**

5 watt bulb

- 1 Press the lamp out using a screwdriver.
- 2 Replace the bulb.

### **Luggage compartment lamps**

One lamp each in the bulb holder of the tail lamp assembly: 10 watt bulb.

- 1 Apply a screwdriver to the recess and remove the lens.
- 2 Replace the bulb.

## Repairing a flat tire



Precautions in case of a flat tire: Stop the vehicle as far as possible from passing traffic; turn on the hazard warning flashers.

Turn the steering wheel to the straight-ahead position and engage the steering lock. Engage the parking brake and shift into 1st or reverse.

All passengers should be outside the vehicle and well away from your immediate working area (behind a guardrail, for instance).

If a warning triangle or portable hazard warning lamp is available, set it up on the roadside at an appropriate distance from the rear of the vehicle. Comply with all safety guidelines and regulations. ◀

### M Mobility system

An M Mobility system for fixing flat tires is included with your BMW M3 convertible. With the aid of this system, you can apply a liquid sealant to the inside of the tire, thereby sealing off the damaged area, and then continue driving.

The M Mobility system makes transporting a spare wheel superfluous, thereby reducing the amount of weight you have to carry around.



The M Mobility system is located in the luggage compartment under the floor panel:

- 1 Raise the floor panel (refer to page 41).
- 2 Loosen the M Mobility system from its storage location.





Note that the fluid bottle in the system's sealant container has to be replaced every three years by your BMW center, if the system is not used. ◀



### **The components of the M Mobility system**

- 1 On/Off switch
- 2 Hose with pressure gauge for connecting the compressor with the sealant container or to connect the compressor to the wheel
- 3 Pressure gauge for indicating tire pressure
- 4 Connector hose from the sealant container to the wheel
- 5 Sticker with maximum speed
- 6 Plug and cable for the cigarette lighter socket
- 7 Protective gloves (not shown)

### **Use the M Mobility system**

-  If possible, leave the foreign object in the tire. ◀
-  Do not exceed the maximum speed limits described below, otherwise it could lead to accidents. Before you use the M Mobility system, read the warnings and danger notices on the device carefully. ◀



1 Pull sticker 5 off for maximum speed and affix it to the steering wheel.

2 Take the round cover off and hose 4 out. Unscrew the valve stem cover from the defective wheel and screw the hose to the valve.



- 3 Flip open the cover and pull out the enclosed protective gloves. Take out hose 2 with the pressure gauge and screw it to the terminal for the sealant container as shown in the illustration.
- 4 Make sure that the system has been switched off (position 0). Take out plug 6 and insert it into the cigarette lighter socket in the passenger compartment (refer to page 97).
- 5 Make sure that the screw on the rear of pressure gauge 3 is tightened down. Turn on the M Mobility system (position I, refer to illustration) and allow 3 minutes to elapse, to let the sealant flow in. The tire's inflation pressure is insignificant at this stage.
- 6 Turn the device off. Disconnect the connector hose from the sealant container and the tire valve. Stow the M Mobility system in the luggage compartment.

- 7 Right afterward, drive at least 1.2 miles (2 km), so that the liquid sealant distributes evenly throughout the inside of the tire. Do not exceed 40 mph (60 km/h), and if possible, do not drop below 10 mph (20 km/h). Stop at an appropriate spot.



- 8 Take the hose with the pressure gauge out and screw it onto the valve.  
Take the plug out and plug it into the cigarette lighter socket in the passenger compartment.
- 9 Reset the air pressure to 29 psi (200 kilopascal):
  - ▷ To increase the tire pressure: turn on the M Mobility system (position I). To check the new tire pressure briefly turn off the device.
  - ▷ To reduce the tire pressure: turn the screw on the back of the pressure gauge, this will open the air release valve.

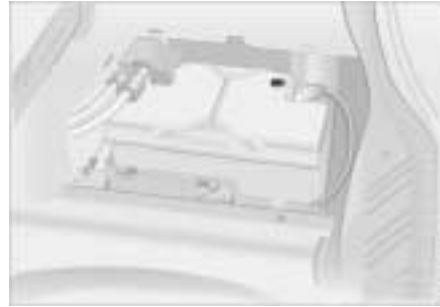
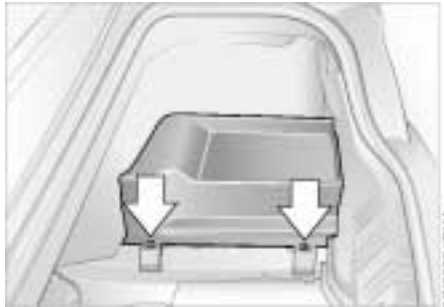
▷ If the air pressure won't hold, carry out step 10 anyway and then repeat steps 7 through 10 again. The use of the M Mobility system may be ineffective if the damaged area in the tire is larger than approx. 0.16 in (4 mm). Please consult the nearest BMW center if the tire cannot be temporarily repaired with the M Mobility system. ◀

- 10 Unscrew the hose from the valve and stow the M Mobility system in the luggage compartment.

After the flat tire has been fixed and you start driving again, do not exceed a maximum speed of 50 mph (80 km/h).


You will find corresponding instructions for using the M Mobility system on the device.

Replace the defective tire as soon as possible and have the new wheel/tire balanced. Re-initialize the Tire Pressure Warning system (RDW), and refer to page 81 for further information. Have the M Mobility system refilled. Contact your BMW center for this.



## Installation location


The battery is located at the rear right of the luggage compartment. Raise the luggage compartment floor panel (refer to page 41). Using a screwdriver or coin and a ¼ turn, release and pull off both caps as shown in the illustration. Remove the storage tray.

 Battery posts, terminals, and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds. Wash hands after handling. ◀

## Charge condition


You can read the charge condition of the battery with the "Magic Eye\*" (a hydrometer):

- ▷ Green: adequate charge.
- ▷ Black: not adequately charged. The battery must be recharged. Please contact your BMW center for additional information.
- ▷ Yellow: replace the battery.

 The service life specified for the battery can be achieved only if it is always kept adequately charged. If the vehicle is primarily used for stop-and-go traffic, be sure to check the charge state often. ◀

## Battery care

The battery is completely maintenance-free. That means that the original electrolyte will normally last for the service life of the battery under moderate climatic conditions.

 For all questions that regard the battery, please consult your BMW center. Since the battery is absolutely maintenance-free, the following is for your information only. ◀

**Symbols**

You will find the following symbols on your vehicle battery. To avoid injury, please comply with the corresponding precautions whenever you work with or near the battery.



Before handling the battery, please read the following information.



A highly-explosive gas is generated when the battery is charged.



Never allow sparks or open flame in the vicinity of the battery. Avoid sparks from electrical cables or electrical equipment. Turn the key to position 0 in the ignition lock when disconnecting or connecting the battery. Do not short-circuit the battery terminals. This creates a risk of injury from high-energy sparks.



In order to protect the battery case from ultraviolet radiation, do not expose it to direct sunlight. A discharged battery can freeze. Store the battery in areas where temperature remains above freezing.



Battery acid is extremely corrosive. Wear eye protection and protective gloves. Do not tip the battery. Battery acid can leak from the ventilation openings.



Do not allow children access to batteries and battery acid.



Wear eye protection. Do not allow particles containing battery acid or lead to come into contact with your eyes, your skin, or your clothing.



If you happen to get acid in your eyes, rinse thoroughly for 15 minutes with clear water. Following that, consult a physician immediately. If your skin or clothing are splashed by acid, rinse immediately with plenty of soap and water. If electrolyte is accidentally ingested, consult a physician immediately.

**Removal and installation**

Do not disconnect the battery when the engine is running. If you do so, the ensuing voltage surge will damage the vehicle's onboard electronics. Do not make any modifications in the wires to the positive terminal. If you do so, the protective function of the safety battery terminal is no longer ensured. Repair and disposal must be performed by trained technicians only. ◀

When removing the battery, disconnect the cable on the negative terminal first, then the cable on the positive terminal. Loosen the center adjusting screw on the battery retaining strap (use the screwdriver included with the onboard tool kit) and disconnect the strap.

When installing a battery, connect the positive terminal first, then connect the negative terminal.




When installing a battery, be sure that it is mounted properly and that the retaining bracket is installed with the center adjustment screw. If this is not done, the battery will not be adequately secured in case of an accident. ◀

# Battery

## Charging the battery

Charge the battery in the vehicle only when the engine is not running.

 Before doing any work on the electrical system, be sure to disconnect the cable from the battery's negative terminal. Failure to do so can result in short-circuits, a fire or personal injury. ◀

If you plan to park the vehicle for longer than 4 weeks, disconnect the battery from the vehicle electrical system by disconnecting the cable at the negative terminal. Then recharge the battery with an appropriate battery charger.

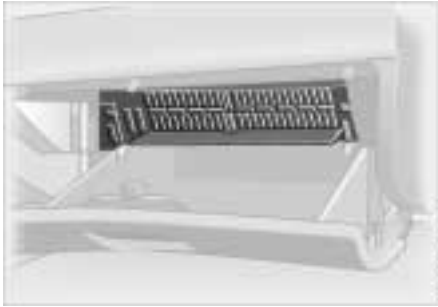
If the vehicle is parked for more than 12 weeks, remove the battery, recharge it and store it in a cool yet frost- and dust-free area. During storage, have the battery recharged every 3 months. Also, recharge the battery before it is reinstalled. If this is not done, the battery will not be serviceable. Every time the battery is discharged, especially over extended periods, its service life is reduced.



Return used batteries to a recycling point or your BMW center. Maintain the battery in an upright position for transport and storage. Secure the battery to prevent it from tilting during transport. ◀



Storage periods during which the battery is disconnected are not taken into consideration by the Service Interval Display for changing the brake fluid. For this reason, be sure that the brake fluid is changed every two years, regardless of the information displayed. Comply with the information on this subject on page [130](#). ◀



A list of fuses, their respective ampere ratings and the equipment in their circuits is located below the fuse holder.

To close the fuse holder, snap it into position at the top and turn the two fasteners inward.

If an electrical accessory should fail, switch it off and check the fuse.

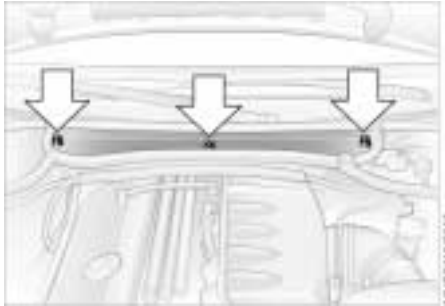
### **In glove compartment**

- 1 Open the glove compartment and turn the two white quick-release fasteners outward. Spare fuses and plastic tweezers are located on the fuse holder.
- 2 Use the plastic tweezers to remove the fuse for the accessory or equipment that has stopped working.
- 3 If the fuse is burned through (the metal strip will have melted and separated), replace it with a new fuse of the same ampere rating (color code).

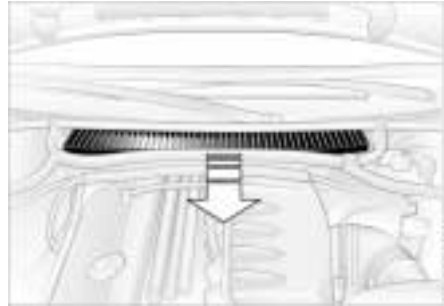


Do not attempt to repair a burned fuse or replace it with a fuse having a different color or ampere rating. To do this could cause a fire in the vehicle resulting from a circuit overload. ◀

If a fuse blows repeatedly, refer the problem to your BMW center for repair.



- 1 Open the hood.
- 2 Release the three fasteners (arrow) with  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn.
- 3 Remove the filter cover.



- 4 Remove the filter by pulling toward the front and install a new one.
- 5 Position the filter cover and secure it with the three fasteners.




### Manual release

Pull the knob with the fuel pump symbol (arrow) on the right trim panel of the luggage compartment.



1 Remove the center piece between the rear seats. Take the trim off the guide rod and flip it forward. Press down hard on the emergency lock (arrow 1). After a brief pause, the drive systems for the convertible top compartment lid will be unlocked.

 If the drives for the convertible top compartment lid fail to release, mount the double angled Allen wrench (2) in the recess (1) and turn clockwise until the drives release. ◀


2 With the luggage compartment lid closed, open the convertible top compartment lid up as far as the stop will allow.




3 Lift out the convertible top by holding on to the lateral guide section (1) and the front convertible top frame (2). Position the rear convertible top frame vertically and close the convertible top compartment lid. Then fold down the rear convertible top frame.

### **Closing manually in event of electrical failure**


- 1 Emergency operation
- 2 Allen wrench
- 3 Recess


 You can use the emergency procedure for manual operation to close the top, but never to open it. If the convertible top were opened manually, the lid on its storage compartment would fail to lock, and would open during subsequent vehicle operation. ◀

 Manual closing is best carried out with two persons from outside with the driver's door open and the driver's seat folded forward. No one is to be in the rear seat while you are doing this. ◀

## Convertible top




 To prevent personal injury and/or damage to the vehicle, do not interrupt the closing process before it is completed. ◀

 Please consult your BMW center to have the defect corrected. ◀

- 4 Pry out the cover in the center of the front convertible top frame.
- 5 Insert the double angled Allen wrench 2 (refer to page [162](#)) in the inside hexagon (arrow).
- 6 Pull down on the front convertible top frame as far as possible. Complete the closing process by continuing to turn the wrench clockwise. Do this until the front convertible top frame has locked onto the windshield frame. The rear convertible top frame will automatically be pressed down onto the convertible top compartment lid and because of the tension, will close completely.

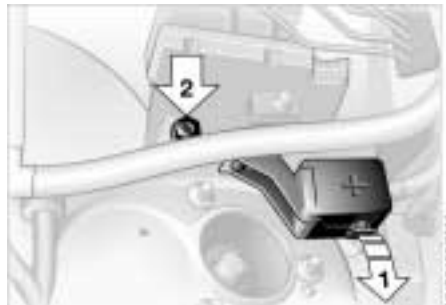
Do not use spray starter fluids to start the engine.

If the battery is discharged, the engine can be started using two jumper cables and another vehicle's battery. Use only jumper cables with fully insulated handles on the terminal clamps.


 Do not touch the parts conducting electrical current while the engine is running. Failure to comply with this creates a risk of fatal injury.

Carefully comply with the following instructions to avoid personal injury or damage to one or both vehicles. ◀

- 1 Ensure that the battery on the support vehicle is also rated at 12 volts, and that the capacities of the two batteries (Ah) are roughly comparable (the rating is printed on the battery).
- 2 Leave the discharged battery connected to the vehicle's electrical system.
- 3 Do not allow contact between the two vehicle bodies – this creates the risk of a short circuit.

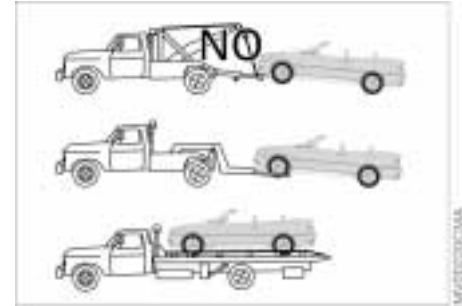


- 4 Start by connecting the jumper cable from the positive terminal of the support vehicle to the positive terminal connector located in your BMW's engine compartment. The cover of the positive terminal connector is marked with a "+" sign. Refer to the illustration by pulling the tab (arrow 1).
- 5 Then connect the negative terminals. Attach the cable to either the support vehicle's negative battery terminal (-), or to a suitable ground on its engine or bodywork. Then connect the other end of the cable to a ground on the engine or on the bodywork of the vehicle that is to be started. There is a special nut provided for this on the BMW (arrow 2).

 Follow the same sequence for connecting the jumper cables when helping other vehicles. If you do not, there is the risk of injury if sparks are generated at the battery. ◀

- 6 Start the support vehicle's engine and let it run.
- 7 Start the engine on the vehicle needing the jump-start, and allow it to run as usual. If the first start attempt is not successful, wait a few minutes before another attempt in order to allow the discharged battery to recharge.
- 8 Before disconnecting the jumper cables from your BMW, turn on the rear window defroster and set the blower to the highest speed; allow the engine to run approx. 10 seconds. This will prevent a voltage surge from the voltage regulator to the electrical accessories.
- 9 Then disconnect the jumper cables in reverse sequence.

Depending on the cause of the fault, recharge the battery.



## Tow fitting

The tow fitting, which can be unscrewed, is in the luggage compartment under the floor panel and must remain in the vehicle. This fitting is designed for installation in the tow sockets located at the front and rear of the vehicle. It is intended for towing on paved road surfaces only. This fitting should not be used to pull a vehicle out of deep snow, mud, sand, etc. Always comply with all applicable towing laws and regulations.


## Access to tow sockets

Front:

Press out the cover panel by inserting a screwdriver in the recess at the top.


Rear:

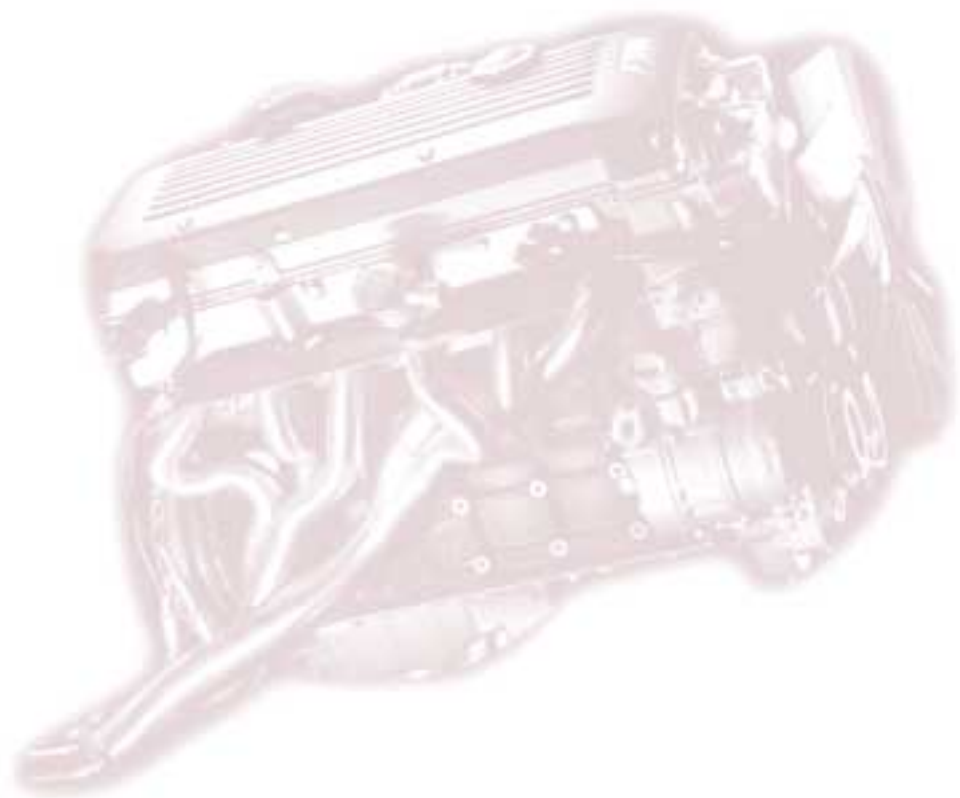
Press out the cover panel by inserting a screwdriver in the recess at the top.

 Screw the tow fittings in completely and tightly. If you do not, the threads could be damaged. Do not tow the vehicle by any components of the running gear, or lash them down in any way. If you do so, the components could be damaged, leading to possible accidents. Do not use any other tow fitting except the one provided with your vehicle. ◀

## Towing with a commercial tow truck

- ▷ Do not tow with sling-type equipment
- ▷ Use wheel lift or flat bed equipment
- ▷ Please comply with applicable state towing laws.

 Never allow passengers to ride in a towed vehicle for any reason. Never attach tie-down hooks, chains, straps, or tow hooks to tie rods, control arms, or any other part of the vehicle suspension, as severe damage to these components will occur, leading to possible accidents. ◀



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Deceleration sensors continuously monitor the acceleration forces acting upon the vehicle. If there is deceleration because of a collision, where the protection normally afforded by the safety belts is no longer sufficient by itself, then the gas generators for the front airbag will be simultaneously ignited on both the driver and passenger sides. The front airbag on the passenger side, however, will be deployed only if a second sensor has detected that the passenger seat is occupied.

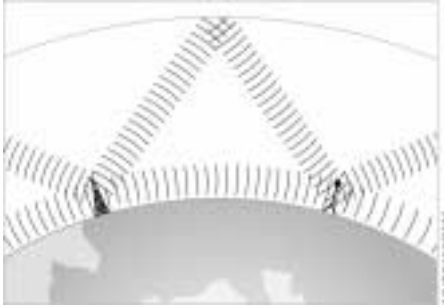
In the event of a side impact, the front side airbags will deploy and/or the rear ones\* if necessary. They will deploy on the side where the impact occurs.

The airbags located under the marked covers inflate and unfold in a matter of a few milliseconds. In this process, they tear through the designed separation points of the upholstered covers and press them out.

Because the inflation process must be virtually instantaneous, it is accompanied by a certain amount of ignition and inflation noise, which, however, is lost in the general accident situation. The gas required to inflate the airbags is not dangerous, and the associated smoke soon dissipates.

The entire process is completed within fractions of a second.

## Radio reception



The AM frequency bands (medium-wave, long-wave and short-wave) allow the reception of stations from great distances because the broadcast signals – propagated at ground level in the form of surface waves – are also reflected from the ionosphere as atmospheric waves.

Frequency-modulation (FM) provides substantially better sound quality than the other frequencies. However, because FM transmissions rely on line-of-sight broadcast waves, their effective reception range is limited.

The limitations inherent to radio reception in a moving vehicle have been minimized by a number of innovative systems:

The "Radio Data System" (RDS) makes sure that, for broadcast stations sending on several frequencies, the radio automatically tunes to the frequency with the best reception quality.

The Diversity Antenna integrates several FM antennas within the convertible top compartment lid to provide three separate sources for receiving broadcast waves. An integral processor automatically selects the antenna with the best FM reception quality at any given time. The selection of the antenna takes place within milliseconds, and is therefore not noticed by the radio listener.

## 170 Dynamic Stability Control (DSC)

Highly sensitive sensors monitor the number of revolutions of the wheels, steering angle, lateral acceleration, brake pressure and the movement of the vehicle around its vertical axis.

If differences in wheel speed should occur, the system will recognize the potential dangers associated with wheel spin and will reduce the drive torque; if necessary, it will do so using brake intervention at the rear wheels as well.

When instable vehicle operating conditions are detected, the application of the brakes with DSC can also act on the front wheels to stabilize the vehicle.

You may need some time to become accustomed to this system's intervention. However, it provides optimum drive force and vehicle stability.

The braking intervention may be accompanied by a certain degree of noise.

## Safety belt tensioner



The safety belt tensioner makes sure that the belt tightens during a head-on collision to ensure that occupants remain firmly positioned in their seats. A gas-pressure system retracts the buckle assembly to tension the shoulder and lap belts within fractions of a second. This tends to reduce the tendency to slide under the lap belt even more.

## M3 Engine concept

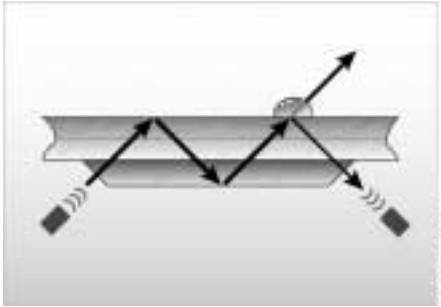


In practice, this means improved acceleration and more spontaneous response throughout the engine speed range, thus providing even more driving pleasure.

BMW M will continue to develop BMW engines for the performance-oriented, yet responsible driver. That is why value is placed on an engine design that guarantees maximum thrust over a wide range of engine speeds.

This is done by using high-grade materials and optimum components. The engine thereby produces higher engine speeds than can be achieved with conventional engines.

Combined with appropriate transmission ratios and a performance-oriented engine electronics system, the torque from this so-called "high-speed aspirated engine" is abundant throughout the entire engine speed range – from 1,000 to a max. 8,000 per minute.



When the system is set to the "intermittent" wiper speed, the wipers react immediately – if water is splashed onto the windshield by vehicles traveling ahead of you, for example. As a result, the rain sensor makes a contribution to driving safety and comfort.

Depending on the amount of moisture on the windshield, the rain sensor controls the operation of the windshield wipers.

Infrared light is carried along the surface of the windshield in an optical conductor in such a manner that it is reflected completely when the windshield is dry. The quantity of reflected light is measured.

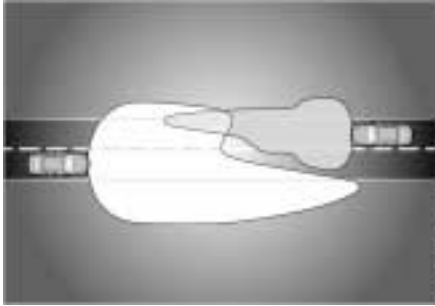
If there is moisture on the glass, the amount of light reflected is reduced since the infrared light at the surface of the windshield can escape. The quantity of reflected light is thus a means of gauging the amount of moisture on the windshield.



The semisolid reacts chemically to this electrical current, thus providing dimming of the mirror through an infinitely-variable range (electrochromic technology).

As a result, it is no longer necessary to dim the mirror manually, and the driver can concentrate completely on traffic conditions.

The interior rearview mirror with automatic dimming feature reduces glare from following traffic by adapting the intensity of the reflected images to correspond to levels of light registered by the unit's sensors. The mirror reverts to its undimmed setting as soon as the light source disappears. One lamp sensor is mounted on the front of the mirror housing. This sensor, which is directed forward, measures light intensity in the area ahead of the vehicle. The second sensor is integrated within the mirror's glass. The electronic control system compares the light intensity from front and rear. The difference provides the basic parameter used to modulate an electrical current and induce chemical changes in a semisolid layer incorporated in the lens.



Xenon lamps provide significantly improved visibility, especially during adverse weather conditions and difficult driving situations (e.g. driving at night in heavy rain or through road repair areas where there are no lane markers).

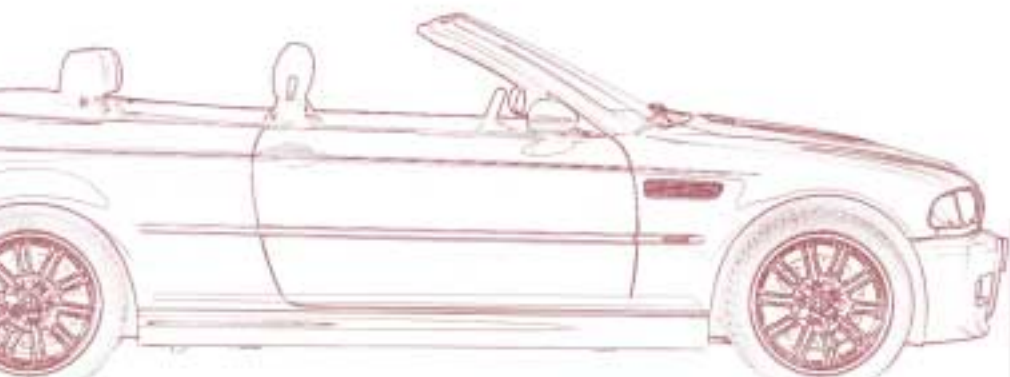
Xenon lamps make a significant contribution to highway safety since other highway users, bicyclists and motorcyclists in the right lane, and pedestrians are more easily detected.

The xenon lamps provide forward illumination with significantly more brightness and uniformity than the traditional halogen lamps.

In a xenon lamp, an electric arc replaces the filament in order to generate intense illumination. A gas mixture in a quartz glass tube with metal vapor is ignited by a high electric voltage. The arc that is generated is then sustained by a lower voltage. When the lamp is turned on there is a brief period of high intensity. Maximum brightness is attained in approx. 15 seconds.

# Rollover protection system

The rollover protection system offers protection in addition to the airbags and the safety belts. It uses highly sensitive sensors that respond immediately to any unstable vehicle condition encountered while driving, e.g. a steep angle or loss of wheel contact with the ground. The protective bar in each rear head restraint is triggered in this type of situation.



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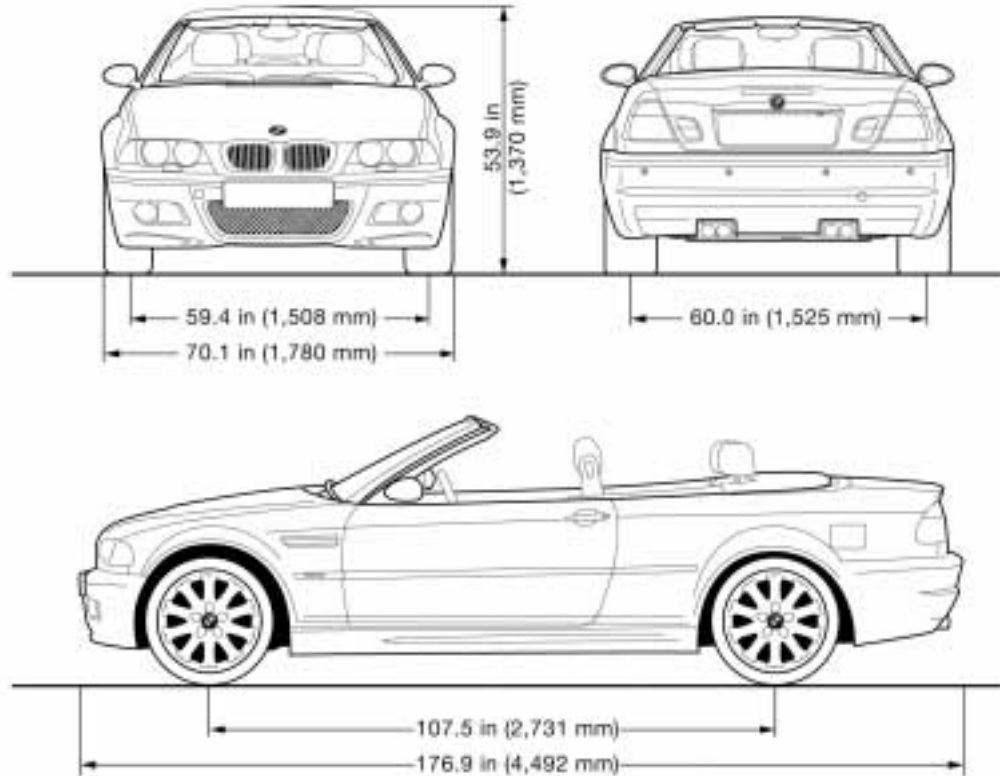
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178 **Engine data**

Displacement	cu in (cm <sup>3</sup> )	198.1 (3,246)
Number of cylinders		6
Max. output at engine speed	hp (kW) rpm	333 (248) 7,900
Maximum torque at engine speed	lb ft (Nm) rpm	262 (355) 4,900
Compression ratio	$\epsilon$	11.5
Stroke	in (mm)	3.58 (91)
Bore	in (mm)	3.43 (87)
Fuel-injection system		Digital-electronic engine management system



Minimum turning circle dia.: 36.1 ft (11.0 m)

## 180 **Weights**

---

Curb weight (with one person, ready for operation, full tank of fuel, options not included)	lbs. (kg)	3,782 (1,715)
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Approved gross vehicle weight	lbs. (kg)	4,630 (2,100)
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Approved front axle load	lbs. (kg)	2,183 (990)
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Approved rear axle load	lbs. (kg)	2,579 (1,170)
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Approved roof load with hardtop	lbs. (kg)	165 (75)
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Luggage compartment capacity with the convertible top compartment raised	cu ft (l)	9.2 (260) 10.6 (300)
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Approved axle loads and approved gross vehicle weight may not be exceeded.

			Notes
Fuel tank	gal. (liters)	approx. 16.6 (approx. 63)	Fuel specification: page <a href="#">27</a>
Reserve	gal. (liters)	approx. 2.1 (approx. 8)	
Windshield washer system/ Headlamp washer system	quarts (liters)	approx. 5.6 (approx. 5.3)	Specifications: page <a href="#">126</a>
Cooling system including heater circuit	quarts (liters)	approx. 7.1 (approx. 6.7)	Specifications: page <a href="#">129</a>
Engine oil and filter change	quarts (liters)	approx. 5.8 (approx. 5.5)	BMW High Performance Synthetic Oil Specifications: page <a href="#">128</a>
Manual transmission	quarts (liters)	approx. 1.9 (approx. 1.8)	Changing the oil during the Break-In Inspection, and at every Inspection II
Differential	quarts (liters)	approx. 1.2 (approx. 1.1)	Changing the oil during the Break-In Inspection, and at every Inspection II

## 182 **Electrical system**

### **Battery**

12V, 70 Ah

### **Spark plugs**

NGK DCPR8EKP

## **Drive belts**

Coolant pump – alternator –  
power steering

Drive belt 6 PK x 1470

A/C compressor

Drive belt 5 PK x 829



You can obtain Original BMW  
Parts and Accessories, as well as  
professional advice from your BMW  
center. ◀



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# Refueling

BMW recommends Castrol



So that you will have important specifications available when you stop to refuel, we recommend that you supplement this table with data which apply to your vehicle.

## Fuel

Designation	Premium Unleaded Gasoline
AKI: minimum	91

## Engine oil

Quality	
---------	--

The oil volume between the two marks on the oil dipstick corresponds to approx. 1.4 US quarts (1.3 liters).

## Tire inflation pressures

	Summer		Winter	
	Front	Rear	Front	Rear
2 persons				
4 persons plus luggage				

**We wish you an enjoyable  
driving experience.**



**The Ultimate Driving Machine**

## M3 Convertible US-En