



SAFETY

Exterior and interior
safety features
Automatic inertia-lock
seat belts
telltale and warning lamps
Heated rear window
Wiper blades
Fog lights
Tires
Brake fluid

Think of yourself – and others

For your personal safety and that of your passengers, please note the following recommendations:

Before the journey starts, the **windows** all round the car and the **outside mirror** should be clean, so that good vision is assured in all directions. In addition, make sure that the **headlight and other outside light lenses** are clean – so that you can see and be seen better.

If you start the car inside a garage, remember that the exhaust fumes contain an odourless and invisible but highly toxic gas (carbon monoxide). Always open the garage door first.



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Position the **driver's seat** correctly for a non-tiring driving position, good all-round vision and easy access to all controls.

The most suitable driving position is normally with the arms slightly bent.

Warning: do not adjust seat position while driving – this constitutes an accident risk.

For safety reasons, position the **headrests** at head height, not at neck height. **Fig.**

Adjust the settings of the **interior and outside mirrors** to suit the chosen seated position.

Remember to swing down the **sun visors** to shield both driver and passengers from direct sunlight or glare.



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The seat belts can only protect you and your passengers if they are worn for every journey, even relatively short trips in town.

Automatic (inertia-lock) seat belts with lap and diagonal straps are standard equipment for the front and rear seats of your BMW.

Children should only occupy the rear seats, and depending on their age and size either wear the seat belts or a special children's seat.



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For your personal safety and that of your older or adult passengers, please note also:

The seat belts have been sensibly designed to simplify fastening and wearing. Place the upper strap across the shoulder and chest, the lower strap round the hips. Pull the locking catch section of the belt after insertion to ensure that the lock has engaged correctly, and check that the straps are not twisted.

Special attention should be paid to correct belt length, as this can greatly influence effective accident protection.

The lap section should be a close fit, with any slack passed back to the reel via the shoulder section of the belt.

The length of the shoulder section is automatically adjusted, but the belt remains free during normal driving to permit the necessary degree of movement at the controls.

To release the seat belt, press the red release button ("PRESS") on the lock unit. **Fig.**

If you should be unfortunate enough to be involved in an accident, the seat belts may be subjected to unusually high loadings and stretch beyond permissible limits. In this case, they must be renewed together with their fastenings as a safety precaution.

At intervals, ask your BMW service station to examine the lock units, reels, anchorage points and straps for signs of damage or wear.

Instructions for the routine care of seat belts are given under the heading "CARE AND MAINTENANCE".



A reminder on the dashboard consisting of a buzzer and a visual warning signal "FASTEN SEAT BELTS" will be actuated for a time of about 6 sec. when the ignition is switched on. **Fig.**

The buzzer will remain noiseless, when the driver's belt is closed before switching on the ignition.

Moreover the buzzer is actuated when the ignition key is left in the lock and the driver's door is opened.



After a running time of 25 000 miles or 40 000 km a marking "EGR" will light up on the right of the luminous field. This signifies the demanded renewing of the EGR-filter to be carried out by your BMW Service Station. When the filter is exchanged the workshop mechanic extinguishes the warning lamp and resets the milage indicator to zero.

The California version has an extra warning light "REACTOR SERVICE" on the left of the luminous field indicating that the thermal reactor has to be inspected by your BMW Service Station.

After the engine has started, the **battery charge and oil pressure warning lamps** will go out. If either of these lamps remains on, or comes on again during the journey, see instructions in "DRIVING HINTS, MINOR DEFECTS".

The **brake warning lamp** should go out when the handbrake is released. However, this lamp also indicates low brake fluid level in the reservoir by remaining on or coming on during a journey. In this event, see instructions in "DRIVING HINTS, MINOR DEFECTS".



Brake fluid is a hygroscopic substance, and thus absorbs moisture from the atmosphere over a period of time. In order to maintain the brakes in a fully operational condition, the **brake fluid must always be changed at least once a year** by your BMW service station.

Add fluid up to the upper "MAX" mark.
Brake fluid grade: ATE DOT 3 "SL".

Use only brake fluid DOT 3 according to FM VSS 116



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The **electric heating elements on the rear window** ensure unobstructed rearward vision and remove or prevent misting over or ice formation during cold-weather driving. Never clean the inside of the rear window with a sharp object or a powerful solvent, or the heating elements may be damaged.

Rear vision should not be obstructed by articles placed on the shelf below the rear window, as these may be flung forwards during an emergency brake application and increase the risk of occupant injury.

Examine the **wiper blades** at frequent intervals. If they tend to smear or leave areas of glass unwiped, there is a risk the driver's vision will be impaired. Wiper blades should therefore be renewed at least once a year.

Fog lights improve your range of vision just ahead of the car, and are a useful 'active safety' factor.

Your BMW service station will gladly install them subsequently if necessary. However, note that many countries have statutory regulations governing the use of these lights.

The factory-approved **steel belt tires** on your BMW have been carefully chosen to match its performance and handling characteristics, and to offer not only maximum safety but also the desired level of ride comfort. Steel belt tires must always be fitted to all four wheels.

The condition of the tires and maintenance of the **specified tire pressures** can greatly affect both useful tire life but also road safety. At regular intervals, and before starting a lengthy journey (but at least once a week) have the tire pressures checked. Tables showing the specified pressures are given inside the back cover of this handbook.

Inspect the tires frequently for signs of damage, stones or other objects in the treads, excessive or uneven wear and minimum tread depth.

Tread Wear Indicators

Your BMW is fitted with steel-belt tires, which incorporate built-in tread wear indicators. These are molded into the bottom of the tread grooves and will appear as approx. 1/2" wide bands when the depth of the tread becomes 1/16". The indicators help you determine when your tires have been worn down so far that they need replacing. If they appear in two or more adjacent grooves, tire replacement due to tread wear is recommended.

If you are forced to drive over obstacles such as kerbstones or potholes, do so with great care and at low speed in order to prevent damage to the tire carcass which might remain invisible from the outside.

At high speeds, the load on the tires is extremely high, in particular during hot weather and when the car is loaded to the full weight limit. Note that increased tire pressures are specified for these driving conditions, and do not exceed **maximum permissible gross weights**.