



How to change air filter
on **BMW 3 Coupe (E46)** –
replacement guide

SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



This video shows the replacement procedure of a similar car part on another vehicle

Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:
BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 330Cd 3.0

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

This tutorial was created based on the replacement procedure for a similar car part on: BMW 5 Saloon (E60) 525d 2.5

REPLACEMENT: AIR FILTER – BMW 3 COUPE (E46).
 TOOLS YOU NEED:



- Drive socket # 13
- HEX bit No.H5
- Torx bit T25
- Torx bit T40
- Ratchet wrench
- Phillips screwdriver
- Clip removal tool
- Water pump pliers
- Microfibre towel
- Fender cover

Buy tools

Replacement: air filter – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip from AUTODOC:

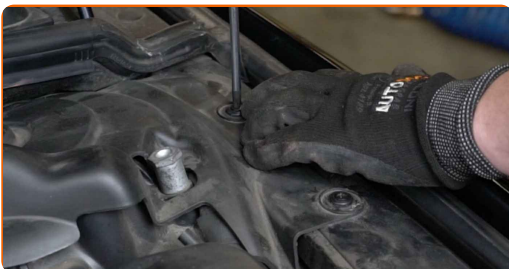
- Follow the terms, recommendations and requirements of the part operation provided by the manufacturer.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

REPLACEMENT: AIR FILTER – BMW 3 COUPE (E46). RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF STEPS:

1 Open the bonnet.

2 Use a fender protection cover to prevent damaging paintwork and plastic parts of the car.

3 Unscrew the fasteners of the suspension strut mount cover. Use a Phillips screwdriver. Use a clip removal tool.



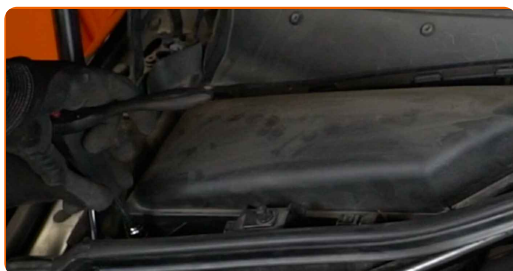
4 Remove the protective caps out of the shock absorber mounting fastener.



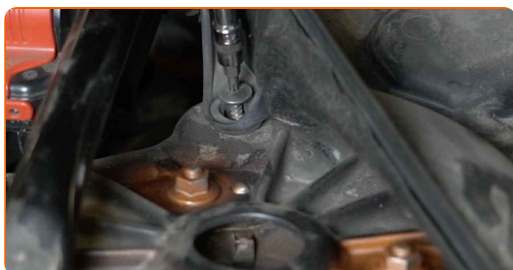
5 Release the cabin filter cover clips.



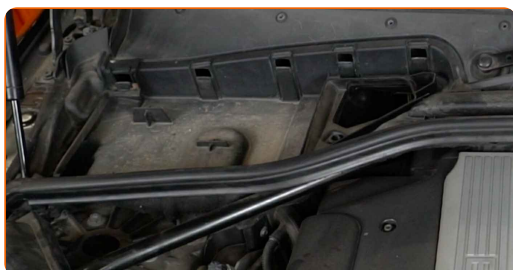
6 Unscrew the fasteners of the cabin filter housing cover. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



7 Unscrew the fasteners of the bottom part of the cabin filter housing. Use Torx T25. Use a ratchet wrench.



8 Remove the cabin filter housing cover.



Replacement: air filter – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip:

- Do not apply excessive force when removing the part. Otherwise you may damage it.

9 Release the cabin filter cover clips.



10 Unscrew the fasteners of the cabin filter housing cover. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



11 Remove the cabin filter housing cover.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: air filter – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Be sure to position the filtering element correctly. Avoid misalignment.

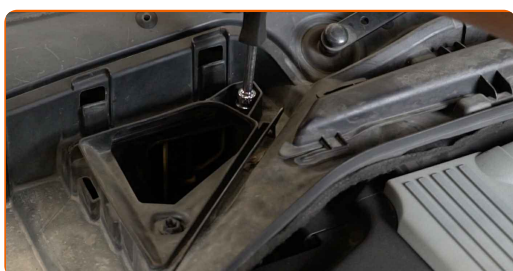
12 Detach the connectors from the climate control sensors.



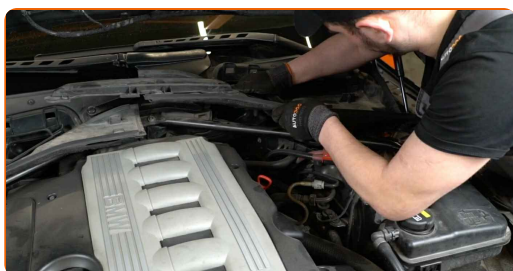
13 Remove the cabin filter housing seal.



14 Unscrew the fasteners of the bottom part of the cabin filter housing. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



15 Remove the bottom part of the cabin filter housing.



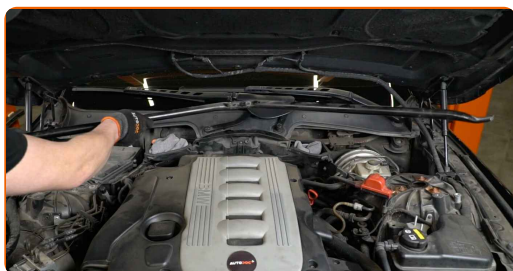
16 Cover the cabin filter air ducts with a microfibre cloth to keep dirt and dust out.



17 Unscrew the fasteners of the diagonal braces. Use Torx T40. Use a ratchet wrench.



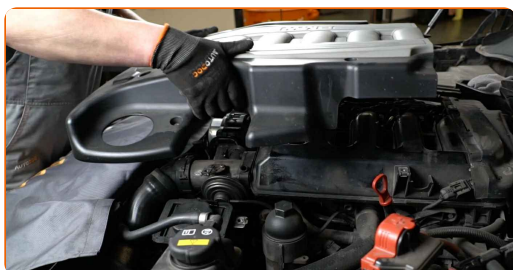
18 Remove the diagonal brace.



19 Unscrew the engine cover fastener. Use HEX No.H5. Use a ratchet wrench.



20 Remove the engine cover.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: air filter – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). To avoid damaging the part when removing it, do not use excessive force.

21

Disconnect the air intake pipe fastening. Use HEX No.H5. Use a ratchet wrench.



22

Disconnect the air intake pipe from the air filter housing.



23

Undo the fastening screws of the air filter cover. Use HEX No.H5. Use a ratchet wrench.



24

Unscrew the fasteners of the back section of the engine cover. Use HEX No.H5. Use a ratchet wrench.



25 Remove the back section of the engine cover.



26 Unscrew the oil filler plug.



27 Remove the oil filler cap.



28 Take off the filter lid.



29 Install the oil filler cap.



30

Remove the filter element from the filter housing. Use water pump pliers.



31

Clean the air filter cover and housing.



Replacement: air filter – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Professionals recommend:

- Before cleaning the air filter cover and housing, cover the air duct parts, mass airflow sensor (if available), throttle valve with a clean cloth.

32

Insert a new filter element into the filter housing. Make sure that the filter edge fits tight to the housing.



Replacement: air filter – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip from AUTODOC:

- Check out the correct location of the filter element. Do not skew.
- BMW 3 Coupe (E46) – It's important to only use high-quality filters.
- During installation, make sure to prevent dust and dirt from getting into the air filter housing.

33

Remove the oil filler cap.



34

Reinstall the air filter cover. Fasten it.



35

Install the oil filler cap.

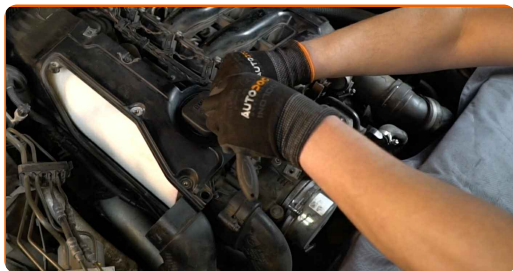
36

Tighten the oil filler cap.



37

Screw in the fastening screws of the air filter cover. Use HEX No.H5. Use a ratchet wrench.



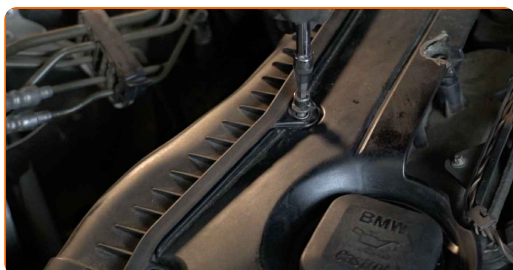
38

Connect the air intake pipe to the air filter housing.



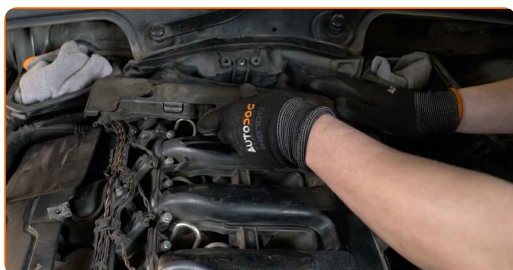
39

Screw in the fastener of the air intake pipe. Use HEX No.H5. Use a ratchet wrench.



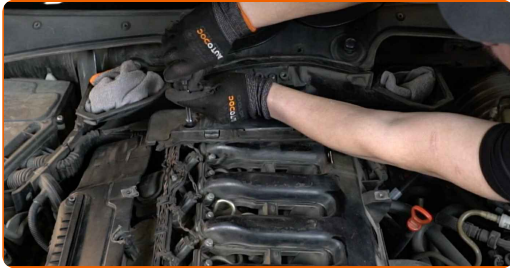
40

Put the back section of the engine cover back in place.



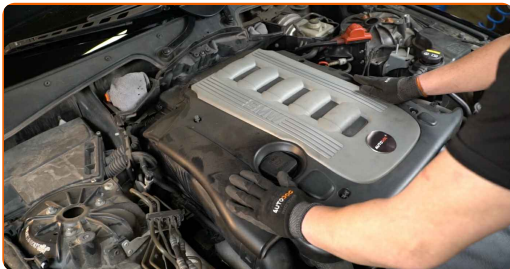
41

Screw in the fasteners of the back section of the engine cover. Use HEX No.H5. Use a ratchet wrench.



42

Install the engine cover and secure it.

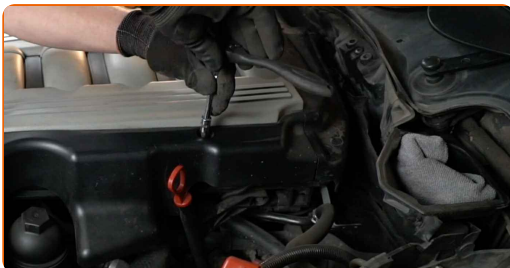


Replacement: air filter – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). AUTODOC recommends:

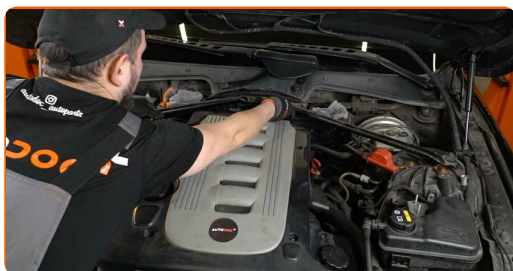
- Make sure the engine cover is properly seated. It should not be displaced with respect to the guiding fasteners.
- Caution! Do not use excessive force during installation. This may damage the fasteners of the car. BMW 3 Coupe (E46)

43

Screw in the engine cover fasteners. Use HEX No.H5. Use a ratchet wrench.



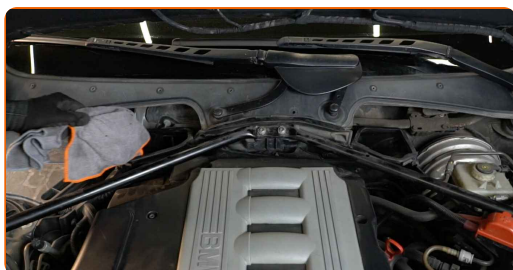
44 Install the diagonal brace.



45 Screw in the fasteners of the diagonal braces. Use Torx T40. Use a ratchet wrench.



46 Remove the microfibre cloth from the cabin filter air ducts.



47 Put the bottom part of the cabin filter housing back in place.



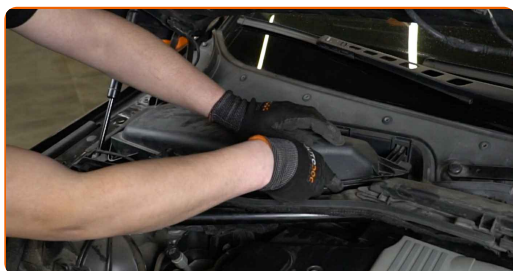
48 Screw in the fasteners of the bottom part of the cabin filter housing. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



49 Attach the connectors of the climate control sensors.



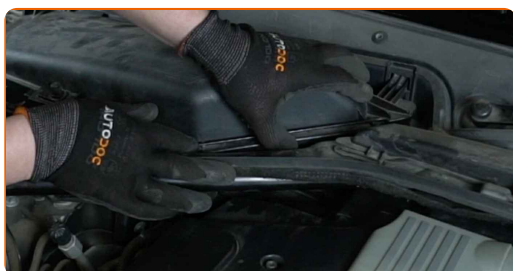
50 Reinstall the cabin filter housing cover. Make sure you hear a click indicating that it is locked in place.



AUTODOC recommends:

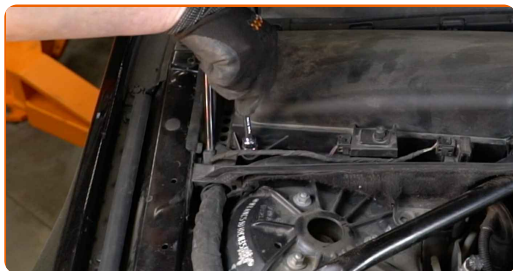
- Warning! To avoid damaging the fasteners of the car during installation, do not use excessive force. BMW 3 Coupe (E46)

51 Attach the cabin filter cover clips.



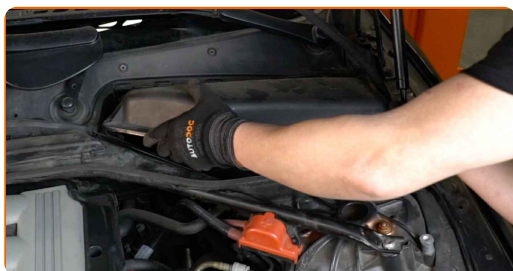
52

Screw in the fasteners of the cabin filter housing cover. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



53

Reinstall the cabin filter housing cover. Make sure you hear a click indicating that it is locked in place.



AUTODOC recommends:

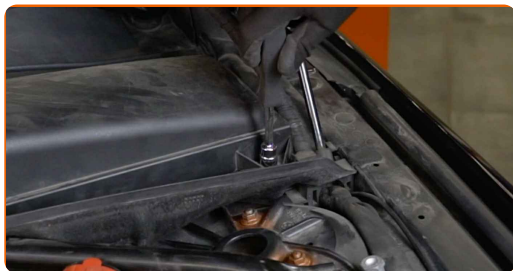
- Caution! Do not use excessive force during installation. This may damage the fasteners of the car. BMW 3 Coupe (E46)

54

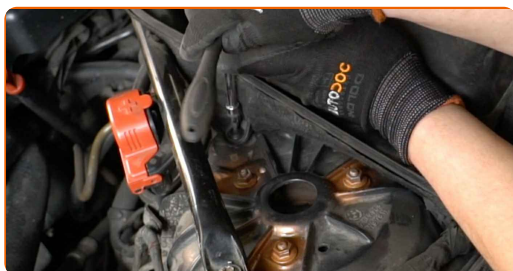
Attach the cabin filter cover clips.



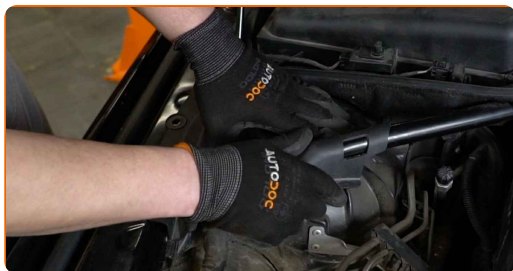
55 Screw in the fasteners of the cabin filter housing cover. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



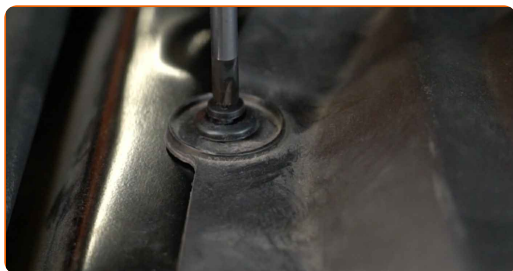
56 Screw in the fasteners of the bottom part of the cabin filter housing. Use Torx T25. Use a ratchet wrench.



57 Put the protective caps onto the shock absorber mounting fastener.



58 Screw in the fasteners of the suspension strut mount cover. Use a Phillips screwdriver.



59

Reinstall the cabin filter housing seal.



60

Remove the fender protection cover.

61

Close the hood.

WELL DONE! 

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