

BMW > 328 > 2000 > 2.5L L6 (M52)

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411-1

General

This repair group covers front and rear door repair information. It includes removal and installation of interior front door trim panels, rear door trim panels of Sedans and Sport Wagons and rear trim panels of Coupes and Convertibles.

For information on the power door windows and door glass replacement, see ⇒ [512 Door Windows](#).

For information on the power door locking system, see ⇒ [515 Central Locking and Anti-theft](#).

Enter Vehicle Identification Number (VIN):

Decode

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328

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2.5L L6 (M52)

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Doors

WARNING!

E46 cars are fitted with side-impact airbags in the front doors. When servicing doors on cars with front side-impact airbags, always disconnect the negative (-) battery terminal. See ⇒ [721 Airbag System \(SRS\)](#) for cautions and procedures relating to the airbag system.

Front or rear door, removing and installing

- If working on a door with side-impact airbag, disconnect negative (-) battery cable.

CAUTION!

Prior to disconnecting the battery, read the battery disconnection cautions given at the front of this manual on page viii.



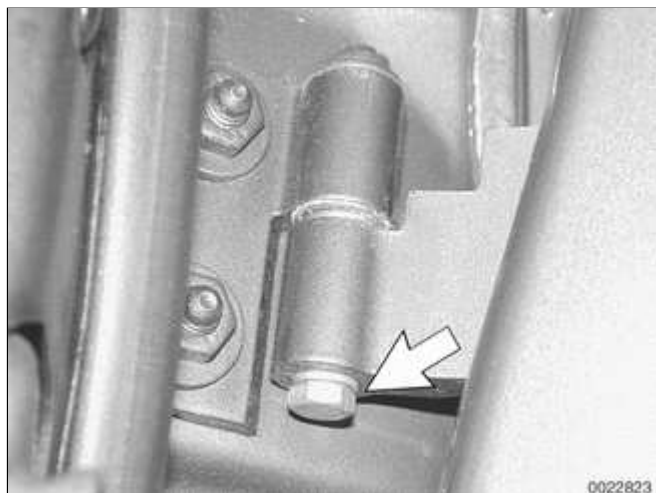
- Remove harness connector mounting bolt (arrow) at door pillar.



- Pull up on locking clip and separate connector.



- ✦ With door fully open, remove pin bolts (**arrow**) from top and bottom door hinges.



- ✦ Remove door check mounting bolt (**arrow**).

- Remove door by lifting up off lower hinge halves.

CAUTION!

Be careful not to damage door or other painted body surfaces. Make sure no load is placed on wiring harness.

- Installation is reverse of removal. Keep in mind the following:
- ◆ On 4-door models, mount and align rear doors first, followed by the front doors.
- ◆ Align door so that panel gaps are equal on either side, as described later. If necessary, adjust door hinges as described later.

- ◆ Adjust door striker so that trailing edge of front door is slightly higher (1 mm / 0.04 in.) than leading edge of rear door. See ⇒ [515 Central Locking and Anti-theft](#).
- ◆ Repair any paint damage and paint any exposed metal.

CAUTION!

In 2-door models, removing and installing the door may upset the adjustment and alignment of the window. Window adjustment, as described in ⇒ [512 Door Windows](#), must be carried out after installation to prevent damaging the glass.

Door adjustment	
Front fender to front door gap approx.	4.25 mm ± 0.25 mm (0.17 ± 0.01 in.)
Front door to rear door gap approx.	4.5 mm ± 0.25 mm (0.18 ± 0.01 in.)
Rear door to rear fender approx.	4.0 mm ± 0.25 mm (0.16 ± 0.01 in.)
Permissible deviation from parallel	1.0 mm (0.04 in.)

Tightening torque	
Door hinge to door	20 Nm (15 ft-lb)

Door check, replacing**WARNING!**

E46 cars are fitted with side-impact

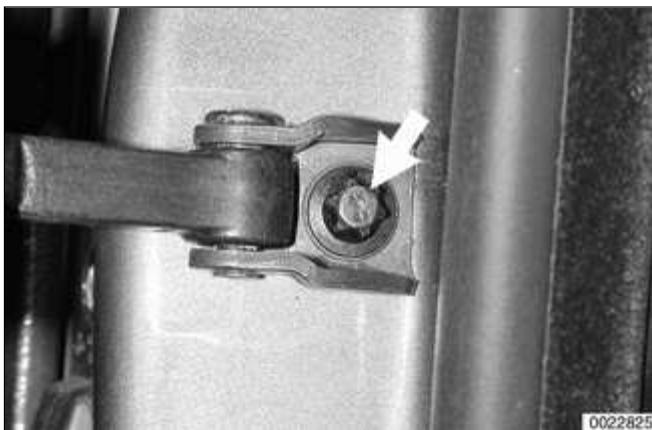
airbags in the front doors and as an option on 4-door models. When servicing doors on cars with front side-impact airbags, always disconnect the negative (-) battery terminal. See ⇒ [721 Airbag System \(SRS\)](#) for cautions and procedures relating to the airbag system.

- Close door window completely.
- Disconnect negative (-) battery cable.

CAUTION!

Prior to disconnecting the battery, read the battery disconnection cautions given at the front of this manual on page viii.

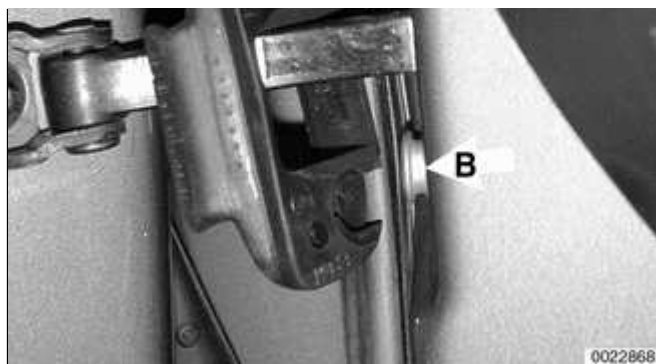
- Remove interior door panel as described later.
- Where applicable, remove side-impact airbag from door. See ⇒ [721 Airbag System \(SRS\)](#)
Remove door vapor barrier.



- Remove door check mounting bolt (arrow).



- Remove rubber cover (A) and bolts (B) from door check lockplate on door.
- Remove door check from inside door.



- Installation is reverse of removal.
- ◆ Lubricate door check before installing.
- ◆ Use new mounting bolts when reinstalling the side-impact airbag to the door (where applicable).

Tightening torque

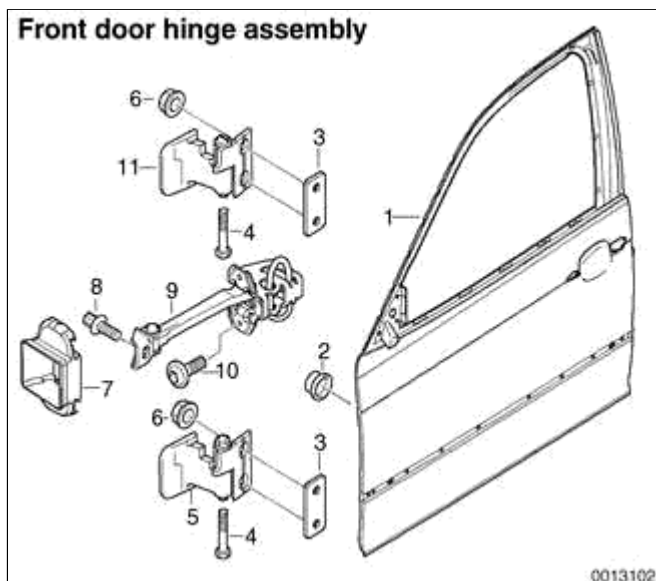
Door check to door	24 Nm (16 ft-lb)
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Door hinge adjustment

- ⚡ If the installed door is uneven or out of parallel, shims can be used to correct its position. The shims are placed behind the hinge plate and are available in two different thicknesses (0.5 mm and 1.0 mm).

- 1 - Door
- 2 - Protective cap
- 3 - Spacer plate
- 4 - Hex bolt
- 5 - Lower door hinge
- 6 - Hex nut with plate
- 7 - Door check gasket
- 8 - Torx bolt with washer
- 9 - Door check
- 10 - Torx bolt
- 11 - Upper door hinge

Front and rear doors are similar.



Tightening torques	
Door hinge to door	20 Nm (15 ft-lb)

Door Panels

WARNING!

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Door trim panel, removing and installing

- Disconnect negative (-) battery cable.

CAUTION!

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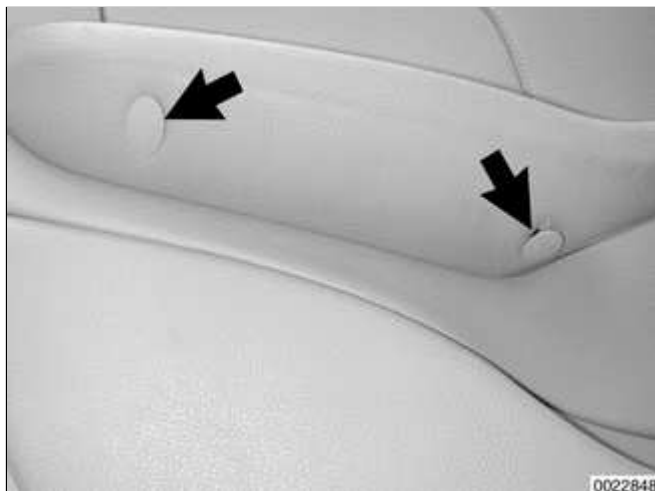
- Gently pry off door panel trim strip.



- Carefully pry out mirror adjustment switch and disconnect harness connector from switch.



- For rear trim panel: Pry out window switch at top of armrest.



- ✦ Pry off concealing plugs (**arrows**) from under armrest.



- ✦ Remove door panel retaining screws (**arrows**).



- ✦ Unclip door panel from door perimeter using a trim panel tool. Pull panel retaining clips off one at a time.



- ✦ Pry off inside door release Bowden cable at end of clip (**arrow**).



- ✦ Pull off panel: Detach cable from interior door release lever.
 - Disconnect radio speaker harness connector.
 - Installation is reverse of removal, noting the following:
 - ◆ Replace any damaged plastic parts or clips.
 - ◆ Renew vapor barrier if it is damaged.
 - ◆ Use new mounting bolts when reinstalling side-impact airbag to door.
 - ◆ When installing door panel, align metal retainers on window sill with openings on top of door panel.
 - ◆ Check door-lock mechanism and window for ease of movement.

Rear side trim panel, removing and installing (Coupe model)

- Remove rear seat cushion. Remove rear backrest side section. See ⇒ [520 Seats](#).



- ✦ Using a trim tool, gently pry up door threshold trim. Starting at A-pillar, press radius of trim downwards while sliding trim forward off trim clips. Remove clips from body using pliers. Save for installation.
- Remove trim plugs on armrest. Remove panel mounting screws.
- Gently pry off panel using trim tool.
- Disconnect electrical harness connectors as necessary. Remove side panel by lifting up and toward interior.
- Installation is reverse of removal. Replace any damaged plastic parts or clips.

Rear side trim panels, removing and installing (Convertible model)

- Remove rear seat cushion. Remove rear backrest side section. See ⇒ [520 Seats](#).
- Lower side windows; open convertible roof.
- Remove side panel insert:

- ◆ Remove trim plugs on side panel armrest.
- ◆ Remove insert panel retaining screws.
- ◆ Gently pry side panel insert from upper and lower side panels.
- ◆ Disconnect electrical harness connectors as necessary.
- Remove upper side trim panel:
 - ◆ Remove trim retaining rivet from upper corner at door. Pull trim cap upwards from weather-stripping.
 - ◆ Unhook spring from linkage at convertible top.
 - ◆ Remove retaining screws from lower edge of upper panel.
 - ◆ Gently pull weather-stripping from rear edge of upper panel as necessary.
 - ◆ Pry up on upper panel and remove.
- Remove lower side trim panel:
 - ◆ Gently pry lower side trim panel from body.
 - ◆ Make sure to feed lower front corner of side trim panel out from door threshold trim.

- Installation is reverse of removal. Make sure to replace any broken trim clips.