

002 Vehicle Identification and VIN Decoder

Some of the information in this manual applies only to cars of a particular model year or range of years. For example, 2004 refers to the 2004 model year but does not necessarily match the calendar year in which the car was manufactured or sold. To be sure of the model year of a particular car, check the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the car.

The VIN is a unique sequence of 17 characters assigned by BMW to identify each individual car. When decoded, the VIN tells the country and year of manufacture; make, model and serial number; assembly plant and even some equipment specifications.

The BMW VIN is on a plate mounted on the top of the dashboard, on the driver's side where the number can be seen through the windshield. The 10th character is the model year code. Example: 4 for 2004. For 2010, A is used. The table below explains some of the codes in the VIN for 2004 through 2010 BMW E60 and E61 5 Series cars covered by this manual.

Sample VIN:

W	B	A	N	A	5	3	5	0	4	B	-	-	-	-	-	-
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VIN position	Description	Decoding information	
1 - 3	Country of manufacture	WBA	BMW, AG. Munich, Germany
		WBS	BMW Motorsports GmbH, Munich, Germany
4 - 7	Vehicle code	NA53	525i 2004 - 2005 (2003/09/01 to 2005/02/28)
		NE53	525i 2006 - 2007 (2005/03/01 to 2007/02/28)
		NU53	528i 2008 - 2010 (2007/03/01 to 2009/12/31)
		NA73	530i 2004 - 2005 (2003/01/01 to 2005/08/27)
		NE73	530i 2006 - 2007 (2005/03/01 to 2007/02/28)
		NW13	535i 2008 - 2010 (2007/03/01 to 2009/12/31)
		NB33	545i 2004 - 2005 (2003/09/01 to 2005/08/31)
		NB53	550i 2006 - 2007 (2005/09/01 to 2007/02/28)
		NW53	550i 2008 - 2010 (2007/03/01 to 2009/12/31)
		NF33	525xi 2006 - 2007 (2005/04/01 to 2007/02/28)
		NV13	528xi 2008 - 2010 (2007/03/01 to 2009/12/31)
		NF73	530xi 2006 - 2007 (2005/04/01 to 2007/02/28)
		NV93	535xi 2008 - 2010 (2007/03/01 to 2009/12/31)
		NN73	530xi Sport Wagon 2006 - 2007 (2005/04/01 to 2007/02/28)
		PT73	535xi Sport Wagon 2008 - 2010
		NB93	M5
8	Restraint system	5	Multiple restraint system
9	Check digit	0 - 9 or X, calculated by NHTSA	
10	Model year	4	2004
		5	2005
		6	2006
		7	2007
		8	2008
		9	2009
		A	2010
11	Assembly plant	B, C	Munich, Germany
12-17	Serial number	Sequential production number for specific vehicle	



