

WHEELS

New BMW 3 series sedan has been designed and built as a new car from the ground up

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METROLAND STAFF

The new BMW 3 Series sedan was unveiled at the Geneva Autoshow in Switzerland.

Entering the Canadian market late this summer, the new sedan has been designed and built as an entirely new car from the ground up.

Although the exterior dimensions have increased slightly, it still remains a true 3 Series model — retaining its full commitment to performance, innovation and aesthetic design.

The interior of the new 3 series sedan — having grown in accordance with the car's exterior dimensions — offers about 10 mm more headroom and approximately 20 mm more knee room for rear-seat passengers.

Combining safety and power, the new 1999 3 Series sedan comes with technical features previously reserved for upper-luxury and performance models. On the safety side, the sedan includes standard electronic features such as ABS and ASC+T.

Included for the first time as a standard feature in the compact segment, BMW has included its exclusive Head Protection System in this new model.

On the more technical side, the new 3 Series sedan's suspension has grown disproportionately compared to the dimensions of the car's body — resting on a wheel track approximately 60 mm wider and a wheelbase approximately 40 mm longer.

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This moderate increase in size ensures that the car remains the appropriate size for its segment, and the passenger receives ample space within.

Taking a look under the hood, BMW's famous six-cylinder power unit is further enhanced to a higher standard in this new model.

The 328i carries over with 190-hp, but, as in the 323i, a more accessible torque peak (3500 rpm vs. 3950) improves response at low engine speeds. Despite this considerable improvement in performance, fuel economy is better and the control of exhaust emissions more efficient.

The new 3 series offers added passive safety, electronic safety features and increased interior space.

Together these features give this new generation the perfect balance of quality for a compact sports sedan.

In Canada, the entry-point sedan progresses from the 318i to the 323i, which means 22 per cent more power and 36 per cent more torque.

Also being offered will be the 328i. These 1999 models will be available starting late this summer, and will be sold alongside the existing four and six-cylinder 3 Series coupes, cabriolets and sedans.

For every litre of gas a vehicle consumes, about 2.5 kilograms of carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere

(NC) — Paying for regular vehicle maintenance may, at first, seem an unnecessary expense. In the long run, however, it's an investment that pays financial and environmental dividends.

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In British Columbia, the exhaust system of older vehicles are formally inspected, vehicles that fail the emission test must be brought up to standard. These inspections have reduced exhaust emissions and have increased average fuel economy by almost 15 percent, representing savings of \$200 per year for an average vehicle.

With 16 million cars on Canadian roads, which account for about 15 percent of the country's carbon dioxide emissions, the potential environmental benefits of proper vehicle maintenance are significant. For every litre of gasoline a vehicle consumes, about 2.5 kilograms of carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. That means a typical vehicle will produce up to four tonnes of carbon dioxide each year — more than twice its weight.

Your owner's manual is the best reference for maintenance. If you bought your car used and don't have an owner's manual, your local car dealer can obtain one for your car's model year. Another resource for car owners is Natural Resources Canada's AutoSmart Guide. People can either go to their website at <http://autosmart.nrcan.gc.ca> or call 1-800-387-2000.


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