

Audi A8 50 TDI (D5)

2017-present · 3.0 V6 TDI EA897evo (286 hp) with 48V mild hybrid and quattro AWD

carchecker.pro

Est. annual maintenance cost: €1,200-2,100

Date _____ Mileage _____ Price _____ Seller _____

What matters most: The V6 TDI engine is proven, but the 48V belt starter generator has a known defect. Confirm the Audi service campaign was completed before visiting.

BEFORE THE VIEWING

- BSG service campaign status**
Contact an Audi dealer with the VIN to confirm the 48V belt starter generator campaign is completed. This affects 2018-2021 models and Audi extended warranty to about 10 years from first registration.
- Service records**
Full dealer or specialist history is essential. Verify oil changes every 15,000 km or annually. Check whether the ZF 8-speed gearbox oil was ever changed, ideally around 100,000 km.
- Open recalls and MOT history**
This car has multiple recalls, including a BSG moisture ingress recall (fire risk) and an emissions software update. Use the VIN to check all are completed before the viewing.

AT THE CAR

- Tyres and exterior condition**
Check tread depth and date codes on all four tyres. Standard sizes range from 235/55 R18 to 265/40 R20. Look for uneven inner-edge wear, which can point to worn air suspension bushings.
- Air suspension level**
Walk around the car and check if it sits level on all four corners. A sagging corner points to a leaking air spring bladder. If possible, leave the car parked overnight and check again the next morning.
- Engine valley for leaks**
Open the bonnet and look between the cylinder banks of the V6. White crystalline deposits or oil wetness in this valley area can point to a failing coolant regulating valve or oil cooler gasket.
- Both MMI touchscreens**
Test the upper navigation screen and lower climate screen. Tap through several menus and check responsiveness. Freezing, black screens, or slow response can point to a failing computing unit (MIB3).

DURING THE DRIVE

- Gearbox behaviour when warm**
Drive for at least 20 minutes including stop-and-go traffic. The ZF 8-speed can develop jerky low-speed shifts once warm, which often points to degraded gearbox oil that was never replaced.
- 48V system and dashboard warnings**
Watch for electrical system, start-stop, or brake booster warnings appearing during the drive. These can point to a failing belt starter generator or 48V battery issues.
- AdBlue and sensor warnings**
After the engine reaches operating temperature, check for any AdBlue or emissions-related fault messages. A start-prevention countdown warning means the diesel exhaust system needs attention soon.

NOTES

THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

Diesel luxury flagship, built 2017 onward. The V6 TDI is solid, but flagship systems like the 48V hybrid, air suspension, and dual-touchscreen MMI add repair cost risk as the car ages.

KNOWN WEAK POINTS

48V BSG failure

Power transistors overheat, drains both batteries

€800-2,500

Air suspension strut leak

Bladders crack, car sags on one corner

€1,200-3,000

Coolant valve / oil cooler

Seals fail in the engine valley

€600-1,800

Swirl flap linkage wear

Plastic joints wear, triggers fault codes

€200-1,500

AdBlue / NOx sensor faults

Sensors degrade, can block engine restart

€500-1,500

