

## Audi S3 8Y

2020-present · 2.0 TFSI EA888 evo4 (310 hp, 333 hp from 2024) quattro AWD, 7-speed DQ381 S tronic

Est. annual maintenance cost: €1,050-1,950

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Mileage \_\_\_\_\_ Price \_\_\_\_\_ Seller \_\_\_\_\_

**What matters most:** The engine is solid, but the DQ381 gearbox overheats under hard use and the Haldex pump can fail silently. Ask for DSG and Haldex fluid change records before visiting.

### BEFORE THE VIEWING

- Recall status (safety-critical)**  
Ask the seller for the VIN and call an Audi dealer to check open recalls. The airbag recall (69DZ, 2022 models) and rear seat belt recall (2021-2022 Sedan) are safety-critical.
- DSG and Haldex service proof**  
Ask for records showing DSG fluid changes (recommended every 60,000 km) and Haldex fluid changes (every 20,000-30,000 km). Missing records can point to neglected drivetrain care.
- MOT history and mileage check**  
Review the MOT history online for mileage consistency and past advisories. Also check whether the car has been modified, as remaps stress the DSG beyond its thermal limits.

### AT THE CAR

- Tyres and exterior condition**  
Check tread depth and date codes on all four 235/35R19 tyres. AWD cars wear tyres evenly but faster than front-wheel-drive models. Look for kerb damage on the 19-inch wheels.
- Coolant level and engine bay**  
With the engine cold, open the coolant reservoir (front left of the engine bay). Low level or discoloured fluid can point to a leaking thermostat housing or water pump, a known weak point.
- Cold start and turbo sounds**  
Start the engine completely cold. Listen for unusual turbo whine, wastegate rattle, or rough idle in the first 30 seconds. Rough cold idle on higher-mileage cars can point to carbon buildup on the intake valves.
- Infotainment boot-up**  
Watch the MMI screen when you start the car. It should boot within 30 seconds. Test Bluetooth, rearview camera, and parking sensors. Early 2020-2022 cars had software bugs that sometimes require a main unit replacement.

### DURING THE DRIVE

- DSG behaviour under load**  
Drive for at least 15 minutes including firm acceleration. If the car hesitates, shifts harshly at low speed, or shows a gearbox temperature warning, the DQ381 may have a cooling or mechatronic issue.
- AWD engagement**  
Accelerate firmly from a standstill on a wet or loose surface if possible. The car should pull cleanly without front-wheel spinning. Wheelspin from the front only can point to a failed Haldex pump (pre-2024 models).
- Suspension over bumps**  
Drive slowly over speed bumps in Comfort mode. A clunking noise from the front can point to worn DCC dampers or strut top mounts. This only applies to cars with optional Dynamic Chassis Control (DCC).

### NOTES

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### THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

Hot hatch from Audi, built from 2020 on the MQB-Evo platform. Engine is proven, but the DSG gearbox and Haldex AWD pump need careful servicing to stay reliable.

### KNOWN WEAK POINTS

#### DSG overheating

Limp mode under hard use, mechatronic wear

€800-3,500

#### Water pump / thermostat

Plastic housing leaks at 60,000-100,000 km

€700-1,500

#### Haldex pump failure

Silent loss of rear drive, pre-2024 only

€800-2,500

#### Carbon buildup

Rough idle, power loss after 80,000 km

€400-700

#### DCC suspension clunking

Front dampers or strut top mounts wear

€300-1,200

