

Date	Mileage	Price	Seller
_____	_____	_____	_____

What matters most: The B48 is reliable overall, but cooling leaks and oil sealing are the main concerns. Ask for oil change intervals and check for milky residue on the oil cap.

BEFORE THE VIEWING

Recall status (fire risk)

BMW issued a critical starter motor recall (fire risk, even when parked) for 2019-2022 models, and a counterbalance shaft recall for early 2019-2020 cars. Contact BMW with the VIN to confirm both are completed.

Service records and oil intervals

Ask for full service history. The B48 benefits from oil changes every 10,000-12,000 km rather than BMW's extended 15,000-20,000 km schedule. Shorter intervals reduce VANOS solenoid clogging and oil sludge risk.

MOT / inspection history

Request past MOT or inspection reports. Look for recurring advisories on oil leaks, coolant loss, or suspension components. These can reveal issues the seller may not mention upfront.

AT THE CAR

Tyres and exterior condition

The G20 330i typically runs 225/45 R18 or 225/40 R19 run-flat tyres. Check tread depth and DOT date codes on the sidewall. Uneven inner-edge wear on the rear tyres can point to alignment issues or worn rear bushings.

Oil cap and dipstick check

Remove the oil filler cap and check the underside for milky or creamy residue. Do the same on the dipstick. This can point to coolant mixing with oil from a cracked oil filter housing, which is a known B48 issue.

Coolant level and hoses

Check coolant level in the expansion tank (passenger side of the engine bay). Look for white residue or stains around hose connections, especially the small plastic vent line near the turbo. Low coolant suggests a leak.

Folding mirrors

Use the door switch to fold and unfold both mirrors. Grinding noises or incomplete folding point to the common G20 mirror electronics fault caused by moisture. Check that window and trunk controls on both doors also work.

DURING THE DRIVE

Cold start and idle quality

Start the engine cold. Listen for metallic rattling in the first 10-15 seconds, which can point to wastegate actuator wear. After warming up, the idle should be smooth with no hunting or hesitation.

Boost response under load

Accelerate firmly from low RPM in 3rd or 4th gear. Listen for hissing or a pop sound and watch for a drivetrain malfunction warning. These can point to a cracked plastic charge pipe, a known issue above 80,000 km.

Gearbox and steering feel

The ZF 8-speed should shift smoothly with no jerks or delays. Steering should feel precise and well-weighted. Any vibration through the steering wheel at motorway speeds can point to worn front suspension components.

NOTES

THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

Petrol 3 Series, built 2019 to present. The B48 engine is one of BMW's more reliable modern units, but cooling hoses and oil sealing are predictable weak points.

KNOWN WEAK POINTS

Oil filter housing leak

Housing cracks or gasket fails, 80-130k km

€400-1,200

Coolant vent line

Plastic line near turbo snaps, rapid coolant loss

€150-400

Electric water pump

Fails suddenly at 100-160k km, overheating

€600-1,200

Mirror electronics

Moisture causes folding failure, G20-specific

€300-800

Valve cover gasket

Hardens and leaks oil, 80-130k km typical

€400-800

