2021 BMW M3 at 34,000 mi

WBS33AY00MFL12345

MODEL / CHASSIS	ENGINE	MILEAGE	DRIVETRAIN
M3 · G80 M3 sedan	S58 3.0L twin-turbo inline-6 (M)	34,000 mi	RWD
BUILD MONTH	**REPORT DATE**	**MODE**	**PREPARED FOR**
Not entered (door jamb)	October 27, 2026	Owner	Sample Owner

VIN check: check digit valid; model-year code 'M' = 2021, matches the year entered. The VIN doesn't record the build month. Sample report: synthetic VIN.

1 · SUMMARY

What this car needs, in order

Each item compares this car's mileage with when owners and shops report the part failing. It is not an inspection: a qualified technician decides what the car actually needs.

0
jobs recommended now

0
to plan in the next 30,000 miles · plus 2 factory maintenance items

2
to watch or check at each service

Safety recalls NHTSA lists for this model year (3)

- **21V-554** · Seat belts · retractor: A faulty seat-belt retractor may not work as designed in a crash, increasing the risk of injury.
- **21V-298** · Seat belts · front buckle: A loosely bolted seat-belt assembly may not restrain an occupant as expected, increasing the risk of injury.
- **21V-062** · Service brakes: A loss of ABS and reduced brake assist increases the risk of a crash.

A model-year list, not a VIN check. Repairs are free at a BMW dealer if open. Check this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

Step 0 · Free: run the VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls and ask a BMW dealer for a campaign printout. Read the build month (MM/YY) on the driver's door-jamb label.

Recommended now at the next service

Good news: nothing on the S58 watch list is due at this mileage. Worth a fresh look at about 44,000 mi.

Next 12 months up to about 40,500 mi

Nothing scheduled here.

Within the next 30,000 miles up to 64,000 mi

Nothing else enters its reported range in this window.

Watch inspect at each service, fix on condition, or optional

Coolant leaks (expansion tank, hoses, charge-air cooler circuit) **$1,200**
Any mileage (No NHTSA cooling complaints on S58 cars; the guide's note comes from parts sellers) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign
independent shop, installed

Carbon build-up on the intake valves **$600**
Any mileage (No NHTSA reports about carbon or intake deposits on S58 cars) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign
independent shop, installed

Recommended now

No repairs due now

Independent shop, installed. Dealers often charge more.

Planned through 64,000 mi

No repairs planned

Now + next 12 months + next 30,000 miles. Excludes factory maintenance (listed separately), “watch” and optional items.

Costs are published independent-shop ranges (low end + low end, high end + high end). Bundled jobs are priced together because the labor overlaps. Routine service (oil, brakes, tires) isn't included; factory fluid and spark plug intervals are listed below.

FACTORY MAINTENANCE

Scheduled maintenance from 34,000 mi to 64,000 mi

The maker's normal schedule for this car. Service history isn't known here, so an item is shown at its next interval mark; skip it if the records show it was done.

ITEM	INTERVAL	THIS CAR
Spark plugs BMW M cars: plugs at every 3rd oil service, about every 30,000 miles.	every 30,000 mi	**Was due at 30,000 mi, next 60,000 mi** [M1][M2]
Brake fluid BMW's service display sets the date; BMW owner's manuals call for new brake fluid every two years.	every 2 years	**By time: check the records** [M1] [M3]
Engine coolant BMW rates the coolant as long-life; it lists no change interval except during repairs.	no fixed interval	— [M1][M2]
Automatic transmission fluid BMW rates the transmission fluid as long-life; it lists no change interval except during repairs.	no fixed interval	— [M1][M2]

M1. BMW MY2023 All Models Maintenance booklet (BMW USA) OFFICIAL
https://www.bmwusa.com/content/dam/bmw/marketUS/common/warranty-books/2023/BMW-MY-2023-All-Models-Maintenance-(On-line).pdf

M2. BMW MY2026 All Models Maintenance booklet (BMW USA) OFFICIAL
https://www.bmwusa.com/content/dam/bmw/marketUS/common/warranty-books/2026/BMW_MY26_All_Models_Maintenance_with_BEVs_2025-09-25_ADA.pdf

M3. 2010 BMW X3 Owner's Manual, brake fluid (copy on ManualOwl) OFFICIAL
https://manualowl.com/am/BMW/2010-X3/Manual/76?page=108

WHERE 34K SITS FOR EACH WEAK POINT

#	WEAK POINT	REPORTED RANGE	THIS CAR
1	Coolant leaks (expansion tank, hoses, charge-air cooler circuit)	No NHTSA cooling complaints on S58 cars; the guide's note comes from parts sellers FORUM/BLOG	Any mileage
2	Carbon build-up on the intake valves	No NHTSA reports about carbon or intake deposits on S58 cars FORUM/BLOG	Any mileage

Colors compare mileage with reported failures, not the car's condition. Red: past the range. Amber: inside or approaching. Green: below, or not listed for a recall.

2 · RECALLS AND BULLETINS

Recalls to check for this 2021 BMW M3

Safety recall repairs are free at BMW dealers. Nothing here can tell whether a recall is open or already done on this VIN; only the official VIN lookup or a dealer can.

Official VIN check (2 minutes)

1. Go to nhtsa.gov/recalls and enter WBS33AY00MFL12345.
2. Note every recall shown as “Recall incomplete” and keep a screenshot.
3. Ask a BMW dealer for a campaign printout; it also lists completed campaigns.

S58 RECALLS WE TRACK

Other S58 recalls we track, not listed by NHTSA for this model and year: 25V-643 (battery cables at the power distribution box (stall, fire)), 21V-199 (fuel tank inlet weld (fuel leak)), 23V-821 (transmission control unit cover weld (loss of drive)).

EVERY RECALL NHTSA LISTS FOR THE 2021 BMW M3 (3)

RECALL	COMPONENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN (NHTSA, SHORTENED)
21V-554	Seat belts · retractor	A faulty seat-belt retractor may not work as designed in a crash, increasing the risk of injury. Details
21V-298	Seat belts · front buckle	A loosely bolted seat-belt assembly may not restrain an occupant as expected, increasing the risk of injury. Details
21V-062	Service brakes	A loss of ABS and reduced brake assist increases the risk of a crash. Details

Source: NHTSA recalls API, fetched 2026-10-27 and combined across NHTSA model names: M3. Safety categories (air bags, fire, brakes, stalling, roll-away and loss of control) are listed first; listings whose NHTSA text names another engine, or an aftermarket part, go last. OFFICIAL

SERVICE ACTIONS, BULLETINS AND WARRANTY PROGRAMS

CAMPAIGN	WHAT IT SAYS	THIS CAR
No S58 engine recall or extension found	We found no recall or warranty extension for the S58's coolant system or intake in NHTSA's records. Goodwill programs aren't listed there, so ask BMW. OFFICIAL [2]	Ask BMW
Other S58-era recalls	21V-062 (brake rotor and shaft weld, 2021 M3/M4), 21V-298 and 21V-554 (seat belts, certain 2021 M3), 20V-355 (tie rod, 2020 X3 M/X4 M), 23V-211 (seat frame weld), 21V-096 (rear-view camera). OFFICIAL [2]	Check by VIN

4 · THE 2 WEAK POINTS

Each weak point, one card each

Every figure carries its source. Retailer part numbers are shown only when the retailer lists them for this chassis (G80).

1 Coolant leaks (expansion tank, hoses, charge-air cooler circuit)

Any mileage

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 0 mentions in VIN-confirmed NHTSA complaints COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (No NHTSA cooling complaints on S58 cars; the guide's note comes from parts sellers), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: No NHTSA cooling complaints on S58 cars; the guide's note comes from parts sellers FORUM/BLOG

WHAT FAILS FORUM/BLOG

Parts sellers report coolant-tank and charge-air-cooler circuit leaks on the X3 M and X4 M. No failing part is named and no bulletin exists.

SYMPTOMS

- Coolant smell
- Low-coolant warning
- A tank level you keep topping up
- Coolant on the ground after a drive

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Running low on coolant can overheat a turbo engine, so the risk is to the engine, not just the cost of the leak.

GOOD TO KNOW

No S58 cooling bulletin or recall turned up in NHTSA's records. Check the coolant level every month, especially if the car sees track use, and ask a shop to pressure-test the system if the level drops.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Watch, don't replace: check the level and fix a leak when you find one. The guide itself says the engine's record is good so far.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Coolant leak repair, guide estimate (X3 M/X4 M)	**$1,200** FORUM/BLOG independent shop, installed
No separate failure price published (same figure)	**$1,200** FORUM/BLOG reported range for the bill after a failure
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

1.0× The failure-bill midpoint ($1,200) is about 1.0× the early-fix midpoint ($1,200). A cost ratio, not a probability.

Where the numbers come from: Fix early and if it fails: M Buyers Guide's S58 page lists coolant leaks for the X3 M (F97) and X4 M (F98) at about $1,200 and says parts sellers report coolant-tank and charge-air-cooler leaks; it gives no separate failure price and names no failing part. NHTSA has no cooling complaint on any S58 car in our data, so this is the guide's report, not an NHTSA finding.

PARTS FOR G80

- We found no reliable S58 coolant-tank listing on FCP Euro on Oct 26, 2026, so we show no part price. Ask the shop for part numbers and confirm them by VIN.

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Has the coolant level dropped between services? Can you pressure-test the system?

2 Carbon build-up on the intake valves

Any mileage

Severity: Medium: leaks and wear · 0 mentions in VIN-confirmed NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (No NHTSA reports about carbon or intake deposits on S58 cars), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: No NHTSA reports about carbon or intake deposits on S58 cars FORUM/BLOG

WHAT FAILS FORUM/BLOG

Direct-injection engines can build up deposits on the intake valves, costing response and smoothness.

SYMPTOMS

- Rough idle
- Hesitation or reduced response
- A slightly lumpy cold start

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Heavy deposits cost response and smoothness; they are a drivability problem, not a safety one.

GOOD TO KNOW

This is a cleaning job, so there is no part to price. Ask what method the shop uses and how much it charges.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Weak case for doing it early: clean the valves if the car idles rough or hesitates.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Intake valve cleaning, guide estimate (X3 M/X4 M)	**$600** FORUM/BLOG independent shop, installed
No separate failure price published (same figure)	**$600** FORUM/BLOG reported range for the bill after a failure
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

1.0× The failure-bill midpoint ($600) is about 1.0× the early-fix midpoint ($600). A cost ratio, not a probability.

Where the numbers come from: Fix early and if it fails: M Buyers Guide's S58 page lists carbon build-up on the intake valves for the X3 M (F97) and X4 M (F98) at about $600 (an estimate, not a quote). Direct-injection engines can build up deposits on the intake valves; the cleaning is usually done when symptoms show.

PARTS FOR G80

- No part: this is a labor job. Ask which cleaning method the shop uses.

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Any rough idle or hesitation? Which cleaning method do you use?

5 · ALSO REPORTED, NOT RANKED

Other themes in S58 owner complaints

Every NHTSA complaint theme with 10 or more VIN-confirmed reports is either a weak point above or explained here.

THEME	COMPLAINTS	WHY IT ISN'T A WEAK POINT
Rear differential mounting bolt (X3 M / X4 M)	15	A drivetrain item, not an engine part. Owners describe a sheared or bent bolt, a clunk from the rear or a loose differential (e.g. ODI 11525811, 11593373). We found no BMW bulletin or sourced repair bill; owners mention a revised bolt and aftermarket kits, so ask a BMW center what applies to the VIN.

6 · BUYING OR SELLING

Used-car checklist and resale helper

For owners this is a resale checklist: it's what a careful buyer will ask.

Ask the inspecting shop to check

- Coolant level and any crust at the tank
- X3 M / X4 M: rear differential bolt and clunk from the rear
- Fault-code scan
- Recall status on the dealer printout

Ask the seller

- Any coolant top-ups?
- Tracked or tuned?
- Differential bolt replaced (X3 M / X4 M)?

Documents to request

- Dealer service-history printout for the VIN
- nhtsa.gov/recalls screenshot

WHAT A BUYER MAY DEDUCT

FINDING	ESTIMATED ADJUSTMENT
Coolant leaks (expansion tank, hoses, charge-air cooler circuit): seeping or leaking	$1,200
Carbon build-up on the intake valves: symptoms or fault codes present	$600
Pre-ticked rows (●), if no records clear them	**None at this mileage**

● = expected at this mileage. Estimated repair costs, not an appraisal. Recalls cost the seller nothing: ask for open recalls to be completed rather than discounted. OUR ESTIMATE

7 · METHOD AND SOURCES

How this report is built

Inputs. VIN, model year, model, mileage and build month (if entered). Model and engine are checked with NHTSA's vPIC decoder.

Mileage positions. Below: more than 10,000 miles before the reported range. Approaching: within 10,000. Inside: in the range, or past the start of an open-ended range. Past: beyond the top of the range. These bands are our rules, not an industry standard.

The plan. Critical items inside or past their range go first; high-severity items follow, and jobs that share labor are bundled. At most three jobs land in “Recommended now”. Leaks that are cheap to watch are fixed on condition; inspections are asked for at each service.

Costs. Published independent-shop ranges from shop quotes, retailer prices and owner reports. The worst-case cost of every item failing is not shown: it isn't an expected cost.

Labels. OFFICIAL NHTSA/BMW documents · SHOP/RETAILER parts prices and shop articles · FORUM/BLOG owner forums and blogs · COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA our analysis of NHTSA data · OUR ESTIMATE ours.

NHTSA complaint data. RepairAhead analysis of every complaint whose VIN decodes to an S58 car: 48 owner complaints in NHTSA's complaint file (dated Oct 19, 2026) whose partial VIN decodes, with NHTSA's vPIC decoder, to a car with this engine; 7 give a usable mileage. Themes are keyword matches, so one complaint can count toward two themes. A very small, young sample: X3 M 27, X4 M 8, M3 7, M4 4, M2 2. 40 of the 48 were filed in 2023 or later. None mentions an engine-internal problem.
COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

THEME	COMPLAINTS	IN THIS REPORT
Rear differential mounting bolt (X3 M / X4 M)	15	Also reported
Engine-internal	0	—
Cooling	0	Item 1

Limits: complaints are self-reported and not adjusted for cars sold; keyword matching over- and under-counts; owners rarely file safety complaints about oil seeps, so leaks look rarer than they are.

SOURCES

1. NHTSA complaints bulk file (FLAT_CMPL), dated Oct 19, 2026: 48 S58 complaints, VIN-filtered via NHTSA vPIC (RepairAhead analysis, Oct 26, 2026) OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/ffdd/cmpl/

2. NHTSA recall records 25V-643, 21V-199, 23V-821, 21V-062, 21V-298, 20V-355, 23V-211, 21V-096 (checked Oct 26, 2026); 2021 M3 list re-checked Oct 27, 2026 (adds 21V-554) OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls?nhtsaId=25V643000

3. M Buyers Guide: BMW S58 repair estimates (X3 M / X4 M), fetched Oct 26, 2026 FORUM/BLOG

4. Earlier RepairAhead engine page repairahead.com/s58/ (Oct 26, 2026): weak-part cards, folded into this report
COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA
https://repairahead.com/s58/

This report contains no affiliate links; retailer prices are quoted as price sources only. Found an error? Email hello@repairahead.com.

PLEASE READ

Important

Based on public records and published repair costs. Not a diagnosis or a guarantee. Your technician's inspection decides what your car needs. Confirm recalls with a dealer using your VIN.

Informational only. This report is not a mechanical inspection, a diagnosis, or professional, legal or financial advice. Nobody from RepairAhead has seen, driven or inspected this vehicle.

Reported ranges and estimates, not predictions

Failure mileages are reported ranges compiled from public owner complaints, manufacturer bulletins, recalls and repair-shop reports. Costs are estimates. Parts can fail earlier, later or not at all, and other problems can occur. Statistics from owner complaints describe past reports to NHTSA; NHTSA has not reviewed or endorsed this analysis.

Safety issues go to a dealer

If you notice overheating, a burning or fuel smell, smoke, a brake-assist problem, stalling or loss of power, pull over when it's safe and contact a BMW dealer or qualified shop. Safety recall repairs are free at BMW dealers. Confirm recalls for this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

No warranty

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Wrong input (VIN, mileage, build date)? Email hello@repairahead.com with report ID RA-S58-012345-20261027 and we'll correct and reissue it.

Based on public records and published repair costs. Not a diagnosis or a guarantee. Your technician's inspection decides what your car needs. Confirm recalls with a dealer using your VIN.