



U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline  
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire  
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects  
1-888-DASH-2-DOT  
(1-888-327-4236)  
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100145

Date Received: 2004 FEB 19 AM 10:20  
11-DEC-2003  
Repository   
Reference No.: 10050413

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name: [Redacted]  
Address: [Redacted]  
City: TRUMBULL State: CT Zip Code: [Redacted]

Daytime Telephone Number: [Redacted]  
E-mail Address: [Redacted]

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle?  YES  NO  
In the absence of an authorized signature, please provide the name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.  
Signature of Owner: [Redacted] Date: 2/1/04

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side: WBAAV53411J [Redacted]  
Make: BMW Model: 330XI Model Year: 2001  
Date Purchased: 3/15/2001 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number: 914-666-5181 ENDURANCE MOTOR CARS  
Original Owner:  Dealer's City: MOUNT KISCO State: NY Zip Code: 10549 Engine: No. Cylinders: 6 Fuel Type: 91 OCTANE  
Transmission Type: A Antilock Brakes:  Powertrain: AWD Cruise Control:   
Vehicle Component Code: 090000 SERVICE BRAKES, HYDRAULIC  
Multiple Failure: 2

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s): 01-DEC-2003  
Failure Message: 43000  
Failure Speed: >10 MPH

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make: CONTINENTAL Tire Model (Name or Number): CONTI - TOURING CONTACT SPS Tire Size (Example P215/65R15): 205/50R17  
DOT No. (Example: DOTMALB8C036) Original Equipment Prior Repair:  Failure Location: TIRES / BRAKES  
Tire Component Code: [Redacted] Tire Failure Type: [Redacted]

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make: [Redacted] Date Manufactured: [Redacted] Model No./Name: [Redacted]  
Seat Type: [Redacted] Installation System: [Redacted]  
Child Seat Component Code: [Redacted] Failed Part: [Redacted]

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash:  Yes  No Fire:  Yes  No  
Number of Persons Injured: 0 Number of Deaths: 0 Reported to Police: N

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).  
Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure, i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

IN SNOWY CONDITIONS BRAKES FAILED, CAUSING VEHICLE TO SKID. \*AK

SEE ATTACHED DESCRIPTION  
POSTED IN BMW BOARD

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579) This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act, and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies)

- ① TIRES LASTED 30,000 MILES (RATED 60K). BMW SAYS TIRES NO GOOD FOLLOWING REAR END SPIN OUT BOUNCE < 20 MPH, ANTI LOCK BRAKES DID NOT ACTIVATE, SNOW CONDITIONS (3 JAN 2002), VEHICLE AWD, TIRES HAD 1/2 TREAD LIFE AND DEALER (BMW OF BRIDGEPORT) BLAMED TIRES. UPON INQUIRY OF BMW OF BRIDGEPORT, SNOW TIRES WERE (CIRCLED) RECOMMENDED FOR THE AWD VEHICLE. ALL TIRES REPLACED WITH OEM TIRES. (VEHICLE HIT CURB + BENDS REAR AXEL)
- ② WINTER 2003, VEHICLE HAS 19,000 MILES ON ALL SEASON TIRES. VEHICLE REFUSES TO STOP ONLY WHEN SNOWING AND ANTI-LOCK BRAKES CHATTER REUSING TO LET CAR STOP. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ISSUE. DEALER SAYS AFTER TWO YEARS THAT NOW SNOW TIRES ARE REQUIRED. BMW USA RELUCTANT TO COMMIT TO SNOW TIRES WILL FIX PROBLEM.
- ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY  
BRAKING ISSUE IS UNSAFE. TIRE <sup>NOT</sup> ANTI-LOCK BRAKES <sup>ON</sup> AWD IS PROBLEM

U.S.C.  
of Tech.

National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

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POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NATL. HWY. TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-216  
400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590



IN THE  
UNITED STATES



U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration  
Washington, DC 20590



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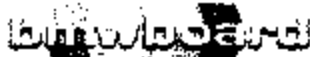
**DASH2DOT**

TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS  
COMPLETE THIS FORM  
ON

**DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**VEHICLE  
OWNER'S**



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BMWBoard > BMW Discussion Topics > 3-Series (E46) > Very poor braking in snow

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**dietz**  
Rookie

**Very poor braking in snow**

Registered: Dec 2003  
Location: Connecticut  
Posts: 2  
What I Drive: 330xi



My 2001 330xi has proven that it operates very well in all conditions except when it snows. Now that the car is being driven in its third winter, the car continues to demonstrate its unsafe braking system. My wife refuses to drive the car in the snow and will drive our Ford Expedition with no fear of not being able to know when the car will stop. A normal vehicle. I have read about some issues with ABS and it appears that the 300xi should have a winter mode toggle to change its operating behavior in snow conditions just like the DSC enable/disable switch. A little slower ABS operating speed would allow some snow to wedge in front of the tires to aid in braking.

I have driven two 2003 325xi sedans with standard oem tires and these cars stop like most normal cars. The ABS does not work that hard. I have tested a 2002 Volvo awd as well as comparing stopping distances on new snow covered roads and the 300xi comes to a complete stop at least twice the distance as all the other vehicles. I am extremely frustrated.

The car has 43000 miles and is on its second set of low profile oem tires that BMW says is all season usage. These tires have 10k miles on them. BMW dealer tells me that no snow tires are recommended. The anti lock brakes refuse to stop their insane chattering whether or not I just lightly press the brake pad, panic stop or pump the brakes (with or without the car in neutral). Just lightly pressing the brake pedal going down my driveway (downward pitch of about 5 feet over a 30 foot length) the car has the sensation of sliding until its about 2 feet from the "Open" garage door.

I have informed BMW of USA about this issue and I am bringing the car in for its second service within a week. Have any of you fellow BMW owners experience this problem? Again, it only occurs while braking in snow covered roads. I can accelerate and drive with no problems. Looking for answers so I can work this issue.

Thanks,  
Would appreciate any comments.

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12-19-2003 04:52 AM



**Average Joe**  
BMW Enthusiast

what kind of tires do you have? like make and model of the all seasons.



Registered: Oct 2003  
Location: Mo town  
Posts: 360  
What I Drive: Imola xfp

not all all season tires are good in snow, (altho I would've imagined that the xi models would get better winter tractions boots over better summer perf ones..)

In your case, the anti-lock brakes are going crazy to get traction, while your tires may not be upto the challenge in the snow. slipping and skidding to activate the anti-locks.

my theory on all wheel drive still stands: it's good for starting off in snow, but it doesn't do squat when it comes to stopping. you'll need a good set of winter boots (tires) for that, or competent all seasons w/ m&s (Mud & Snow) rating.

my car's taking a vacation for the winter.. I wish I could... \*sigh\*

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12-19-2003 05:03 AM

**dietz**  
Rookie

Registered: Dec 2003  
Location: Connecticut  
Posts: 2  
What I Drive: 330xi



**OEM Tires recommended by BMW 330xi**

The tires are Continental  
ContiTouringContact CV95

BMW has recommended these tires for all season use. Upon my questioning the dealer about snow tires, they stated that it was not necessary. I had to replace all the existing tires with the OEM tires as they were totally worn at 30k miles. Not too good. But since the car was under warranty I really had no choice. It is really up to BMW to confront any tire issues as it is their responsibility for any safety issues. From an engineering point of view, they are supposed to match tire and braking performance as it is an integrated subsystem of the vehicle. Thats what they are supposed to do.

Thanks for the feedback.

Report this post to a moderator | IP: Logged

12-19-2003 02:29 PM

**Atakubi**  
BMW Enthusiast

Registered: Jul 2003  
Location: Eugene, OR  
Posts: 249  
What I Drive: 330Ci Sport



Sorry to hear about your problem. But All-Season tires are NOT snow tires. They will suffice to a certain point, but will not grip well. You have AWD, so it's a bit easier for the car to drive and handle in the snow. But under braking your car is just using pure grip from the rubber. OEM all-seasons will fill up the grooves with snow and turn into skis - hence you slide. ABS is trying to protect you (that's why rally cars never use ABS).

The dealer may have been mistaken you or the snow conditions are severe in your area or the tires are worn, either way if you want a safe drive in the snow, buy a set of winter tires.

Good luck! 

330Ci, 5sp, SP, Xenon, HK, CD.

Go: RD Carbon Fiber Intake, RD Sway bars, RD front strut brace, Axis