

2005 E87 BMW 1-Series 120d 5-Door M Sport Hatchback Review



When the BMW 1 Series was launched in 2004 the most controversial aspect was the styling which certainly divided opinion. Whether it will become a design classic remains to be seen, but it certainly hasn't put people off and the BMW 1 Series has become one of the most popular premium hatchbacks around.

The first impression you get from the BMW 1 Series is an air of solidity. Like all BMWs, it feels superbly engineered and incredibly well built both inside and out. Just because it's the cheapest model in the BMW line-up, doesn't mean it's a poor relation to the larger cars. As you'd expect, this BMW is also great once you get behind the wheel. It's rear-wheel drive, which is ideal for grip and agility, so the 1 Series is composed in corners and good fun to drive, even with the smaller engines. That said, the original 116i is best avoided unless you're on a tight budget as it's fairly lacklustre and lacks low down punch. The 118i or 118d are much better choices.

It's certainly not the most spacious of cars either – particularly for rear [seat](#) passengers where there's a shortage of leg and headroom for adults. The boot isn't a bad size though and the large tailgate means you can carry some sizeable loads. For practicality there are better cars, but as premium hatchbacks go, the 1 Series is the best all rounder with a great choice of efficient engines.

The unusual looks of the BMW 1-Series may not have been universally acclaimed when it was first launched but the hatchback has become a hugely popular model. Good to drive and with a great choice of engines it's the cheapest way of owning a BMW. In 2007 the line-up was further improved with a range of fuel-saving measures called Efficient Dynamics.

Fitted to all models, drivers will hardly notice any difference but both fuel economy and emissions are significantly lowered. Up to 60mpg is offered on diesel models while all four-cylinder engines have increased power along with improved efficiency. There are more practical cars available for the money but none are as engaging to drive as the 1-Series.



Performance

The 1-Series hatchback has a choice of seven engines. Since 2006 all have come with six-speed manual transmission as standard, although earlier versions of the 116i and 118i will have five-speed gearboxes. The petrol powered models are both swift and refined, although the 1.6-litre petrol needs to be worked hard to get the best from it. In March 2009 this was replaced by a 2.0-litre engine (already used in the 118i and 120i) but with power at 122bhp.

Thanks to more pulling power it's less strained and acceleration times are slightly quicker too. The range topper was the 265bhp 130i - it's as quick and responsive as you'd expect while the lightweight six-cylinder engine sounds glorious as it revs up to its 7000rpm red line, however it was phased out in 2007. It's the diesels - 118d, 120d and the later 123d and 116d which are most impressive.

Most of the engines were upgraded in May 2007 with improvements in performance, perhaps the most notable being the 118d where power was upped from 122bhp to 143bhp. This engine is the pick of the range thanks to its blend of strong performance, superb economy and cheap road tax. All three diesel models in the 1-Series actually use the same 2.0-litre engine - but in different outputs.

However thanks to two turbochargers the 123d has an output of 204bhp. This gives it hot hatch-like performance with a 0-62mph time of just 6.9 seconds while in-gear acceleration is even more impressive. This doesn't come at the expense of economy though as it still returns 54mpg. The 116d - launched in March 2009 - returns a very impressive 64mpg but still manages 0-62mph in a respectable 10.2 seconds.

All the facts and figures below for BMW 1-Series Hatchback (04-11) 120d M Sport 5d are from the official BMW manufacturer data and are regularly updated to ensure they are as accurate as possible. Widths of vehicles do not include wing mirrors.

Handling

The rear-wheel-drive 1-Series doesn't disappoint on the road and is as much a driver's car as larger BMWs. It's well-balanced, corners precisely and has good body control plus the steering is excellent too - well weighted in corners, with good feedback. There's plenty of grip, even in the wet and a sophisticated rear suspension set-up means that ride comfort is excellent over all surfaces, even with the harder than normal run-flat tyres fitted.

The M Sport models carry over the same mechanical upgrades as the Sport models (lower, stiffer suspension) but with various styling enhancements and 'M' branding. On the 130i the M Sport model has 18-inch wheels and wider, narrower section tyres at the rear as well as the styling kit. You certainly feel the road more but the pay-off is an even higher level of grip and a more focused feel to the car when pressing on.

Active steering is available as an option on 130i models for better precision at high speeds and less effort at lower speeds, but don't bet on seeing the £925 it initially cost when you come to sell the car.

Equipment

Standard kit is fairly good on the 1-Series - all models get six airbags, run-flat tyres with puncture warning system, on-board computer, Isofix child seat mountings and CD player. The SE adds 16-inch alloy wheels, automatic climate control, front arm rest, front fog lamps, interior auto dimming mirror, three-spoke leather sports multifunction steering wheel and rear park distance control.

Sport models add Black Gomeria interior trim, colour coded exterior body parts, sports seats and sports suspension. The M Sport is the same as the Sport model but with a styling kit. The options list is extensive and includes leather trim, business and professional navigation with iDrive controller/folding screen, HiFi speaker system and a Professional HiFi with Logic7.

Safety

The small BMW received a top five-star crash test rating from Euro NCAP and systems used on larger BMWs are included in the 1-Series. These include ABS brakes, Dynamic Stability Control, Dynamic Traction Control, Dynamic Brake Control and Cornering Brake Control. All cars get six airbags and run flat tyres, so there's no need to stop to change the wheel if you get a puncture.

Reliability

The interior build quality feels robust and BMW's track record is superb with no major problems reported on the 1-Series so far.

General

Production	12 Sep 2005 - 26 Feb 2007
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Length	4227 mm
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Width	1933 mm
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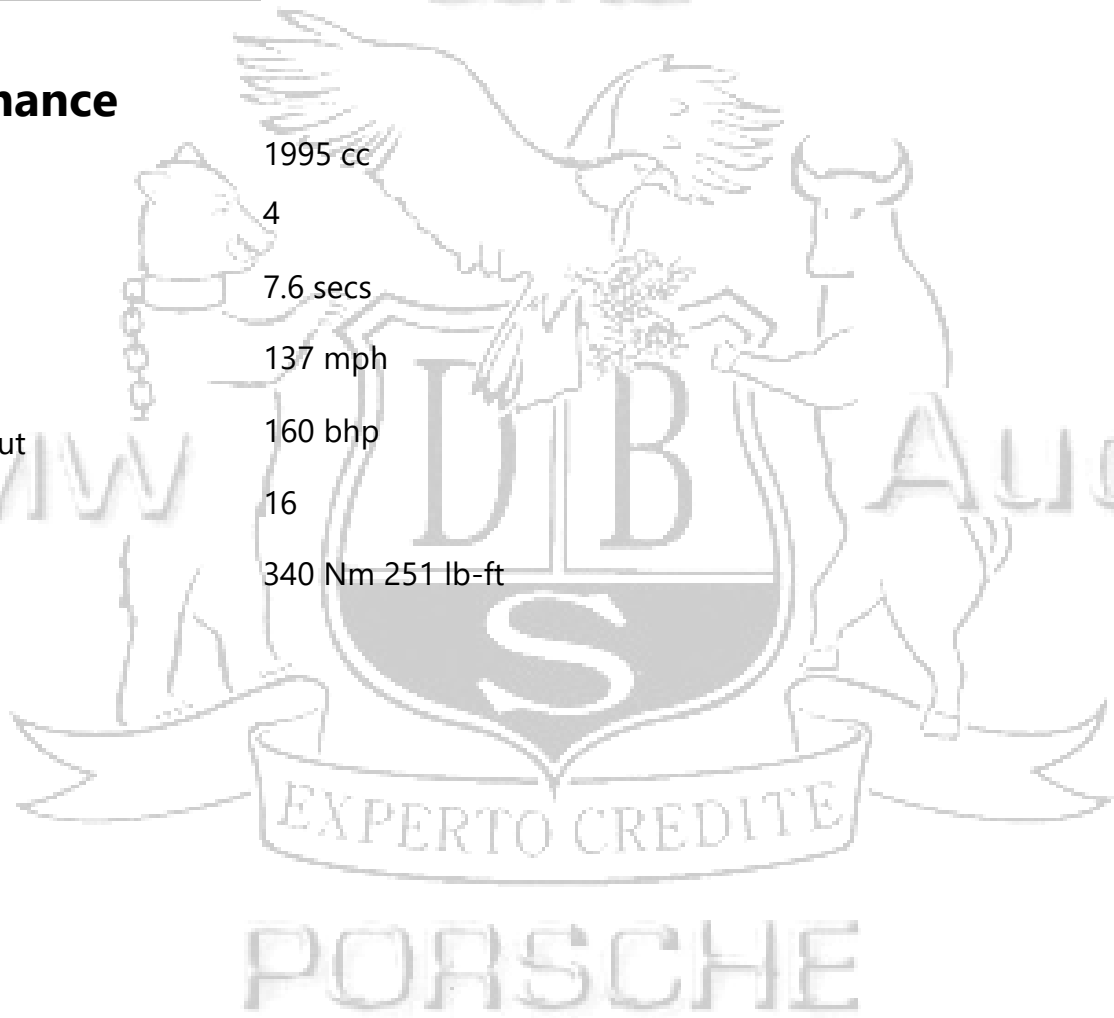
Height	1430 mm
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Weight	1340 kg
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Fuel Delivery	Common rail
Transmission	Manual
Gears	6 Speed
Costs	
MPG	49 mpg
Insurance Group	24
Euro Emissions Standard	4
CO2 Emissions	152 g/km
VED Band	G

Performance

Engine Size	1995 cc
Cylinders	4
0-60 mph	7.6 secs
Top Speed	137 mph
Power Output	160 bhp
Valves	16
Torque	340 Nm 251 lb-ft





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2005[55] BMW [1-Series E87] 120d M-Sport Turbo Diesel 5 Door Hatchback, 6 Speed Manual. 2.0 Litre, In-Line 4 Cylinder, 160BHP / 340Nm Turbo DIESEL. The car just had a Full BMW 50,000 miles service with book stamped and carries Warranted 48631 miles from new. There is no other small hatchback that can impress more in combining sporty exhilaration than this 2.0 Litre Turbo-Diesel 120d M-Sport Hatchback. A decidedly sporting E87 with proportions that telegraph its capabilities admirably and instantly tells you: "I'm a BMW". With her squashed kidney grills stretched horizontally, plus its M Sport package, the intent is quite clear. This is of course the true BMW – the Driver's Car – the Ultimate Driving Machine. She has been crafted with so many tasteful design enhancement features that it would easily fill a sizeable novel especially for a car of her size. Finished in stunning Le Mans Blue Metallic [381M] with its Black Flashpoint Cloth and Sensatec Leather [GCSW] interior. The BMW 1 Series has now become one of the most popular premium hatchbacks around. The first impression you get from the BMW 1 Series is an air of solidity. Like all BMWs, it feels superbly engineered and incredibly well built both inside and out. As you would expect, this BMW is also great once you get behind the wheel. It is rear-wheel drive, which is ideal for grip and agility, so the 1 Series is composed in corners and good fun to drive. Although you may not consider her as the most spacious of Hatchback estates, its boot is capacious and the large tailgate means you can carry some sizeable loads. For practicality and as a premium hatchback, the 1-Series is the best all rounder with its 2.0 litre Turbo-Diesel engine. Its unusual looks may not have been universally acclaimed when it was first launched but the hatchback has become a hugely popular model. Good to drive and with a great choice of engines it is the cheapest way of owning a BMW. The rear-wheel-drive 1-Series does not disappoint on the road and is as much a driver's car as larger BMWs. It is well balanced, corners precisely and has good body control and the steering is excellent too - well weighted in corners, with good feedback. There's plenty of grip, even in the wet and a sophisticated rear suspension set-up means that ride comfort is excellent over all surfaces, even with the harder than normal run-flat tyres fitted. The M Sport model such as this one carry over the same mechanical upgrades as the Sport models (lower, stiffer suspension) but with various styling enhancements and 'M' branding. Standard kit is good on the 1-Series - all models get six airbags, run-flat tyres with puncture warning system, on-board computer, Isofix child seat mountings and CD player. The M Sport adds 17-inch alloy wheels, automatic climate control, front armrest, front fog lamps, interior auto dimming mirror, three-spoke M Sport leather sports multifunction steering wheel and rear park distance control. Sport models add Black Gomera interior trim, colour coded exterior body parts, sports seats and sports suspension. The M Sport is the same as the Sport model but with a styling kit. The options list on this particular car is incredibly extensive and includes Reversing Parking Aid Colour Camera/ Pioneer AVH-X7700BT MultiMedia System with 7-Inch motorised Fold Out Touchscreen Controls/ Bluetooth Smartphone Connectivity/ LED Day Running Lights/ MultiMedia Interface with 13 Band Graphic Equalizer/ Pioneer Satellite Navigation Unit AVI-CF260 with 2015 updates/ Bluetooth Audio Streaming/ Multimedia Player with content from CDs, DVDs, USB memory Devices and with iPhone, iPad connections/ Full Remote Control/ M Sport Package/ Digital TV Tuner for Digi-TV Freeview Broadcasts/ Rear end protection Parking Sensors with Audible Alarms/ Digital Radio Standard DAB Digi Audio Broadcasts/ M Double Spoke 207M 7J/7.5Jx17inch Alloys Staggered with mixed Run-Flat Tyres/ Sport Seats/ Auto Drive Away Locking/ Multi-Function M Sport Steering Wheel/ Rain Sensors with Auto Light Activation System/ Automatic Air conditioning/ Extended Interior Light Package/ M Sport Suspension/ Aluminium Glacier Silver Interior Trim/ M-Aerodynamic Body Styling, the list just goes on and on. This small BMW received a top five-star crash test rating from Euro NCAP and systems used on larger BMWs are included in the 1-Series. These include ABS brakes, Dynamic Stability Control, Dynamic Traction Control, Dynamic Brake Control and Cornering Brake Control. All cars get six airbags and run-flat tyres, so there is no need to stop to change the wheel if you get a puncture. When you then are comfortably settled behind her M-Sport steering wheel with her plethora of buttons plus a myriad of manufactured extras so skilfully placed around the dashboard and centre console all desirably generating confidence instead of rivalry, sensation instead of sensationalising. An incredible hatchback with an unbeatable value. Yours to be had. Enjoy !

SPECIFICATION

MAKE:	B M W 1 Series
MODEL:	120d M-Sport 2.0 Litre TD 5 Door Hatchback, 6-Speed Manual.
Registration NUMBER:	YC55 WRV
Date of First Registration:	20th October 2005
COLOUR [Exterior / Interior]:	Le Mans Blue Metallic [381M]/ Black Flashpoint Cloth/Sensatec [GCSW]
Number of Cylinders & TYPE:	In-line 4 cyl 2.0 Litre TurboDiesel
Cylinder CAPACITY:	1995 cc
Horse POWER / Torque:	160BHP / 340Nm /0-60 7.6sec, Top Speed 137mph
Chassis/Frame NUMBER:	WBAUG52000PW68120
Engine NUMBER:	89326007
Fuel TYPE:	Diesel FUEL-OIL/Heavy OIL [v-Power Diesel ONLY]
Oil TYPE:	CASTROL EDGE TurboDiesel 0W-30, [ACEA3/B3/B4,C3/BMW Longlife-04]

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