

Oil Change on 2008 BMW 550i

(6/2008 build date)

The Car



The Engine



Parts and Tools:

1. p/n 11-42-7-542-021 Oil Filter Kit (\$15.19 at BMW dealer) – includes filter element, filter element O-ring, oil drain plug washer and filter canister drain plug O-ring.
2. 9 qts, p/n 07-51-0-017-866 (\$6.20/qt) BMW 5W30 synthetic oil
3. 24mm socket
4. 8mm socket
5. 8mm hex socket
6. 6mm hex socket
7. Torque wrench, O-ring pick (comes in handy), disposable gloves, rags, drain bucket & funnel.



*The drain plugs have already been removed and are shown in this picture.



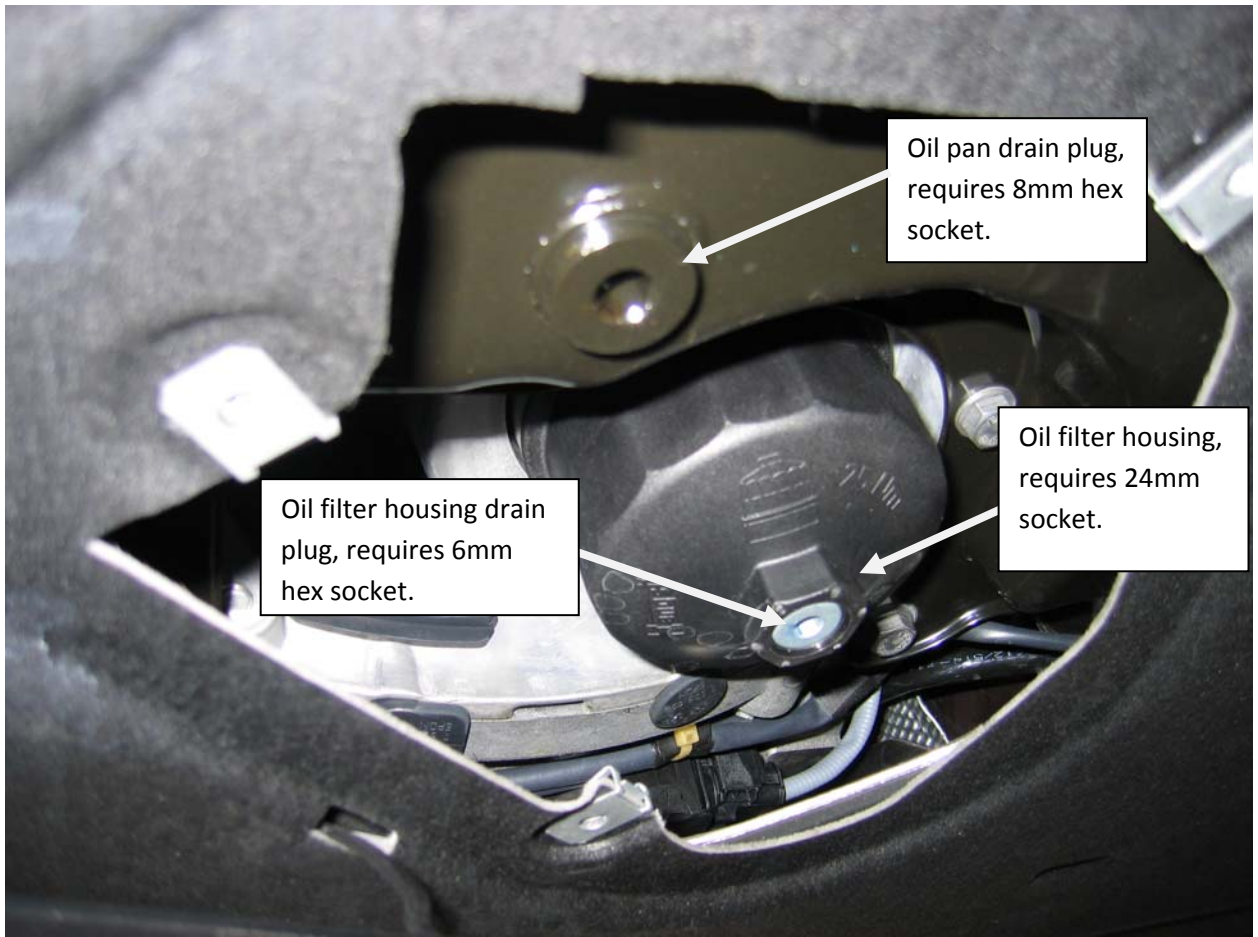
Left to right: 6mm hex socket, 8mm hex socket and 24mm socket.

Step by step:

1. Raise front of car on ramps (Rhino Ramps work well for me) and chock rear wheels.
2. Remove oil fill cap on top of engine (allows for oil to drain out with minimal spattering).
3. The drain plug and oil filter are located under the engine (under the car), accessible through a removable plastic cover. Locate the cover and remove its three screws (8mm socket).

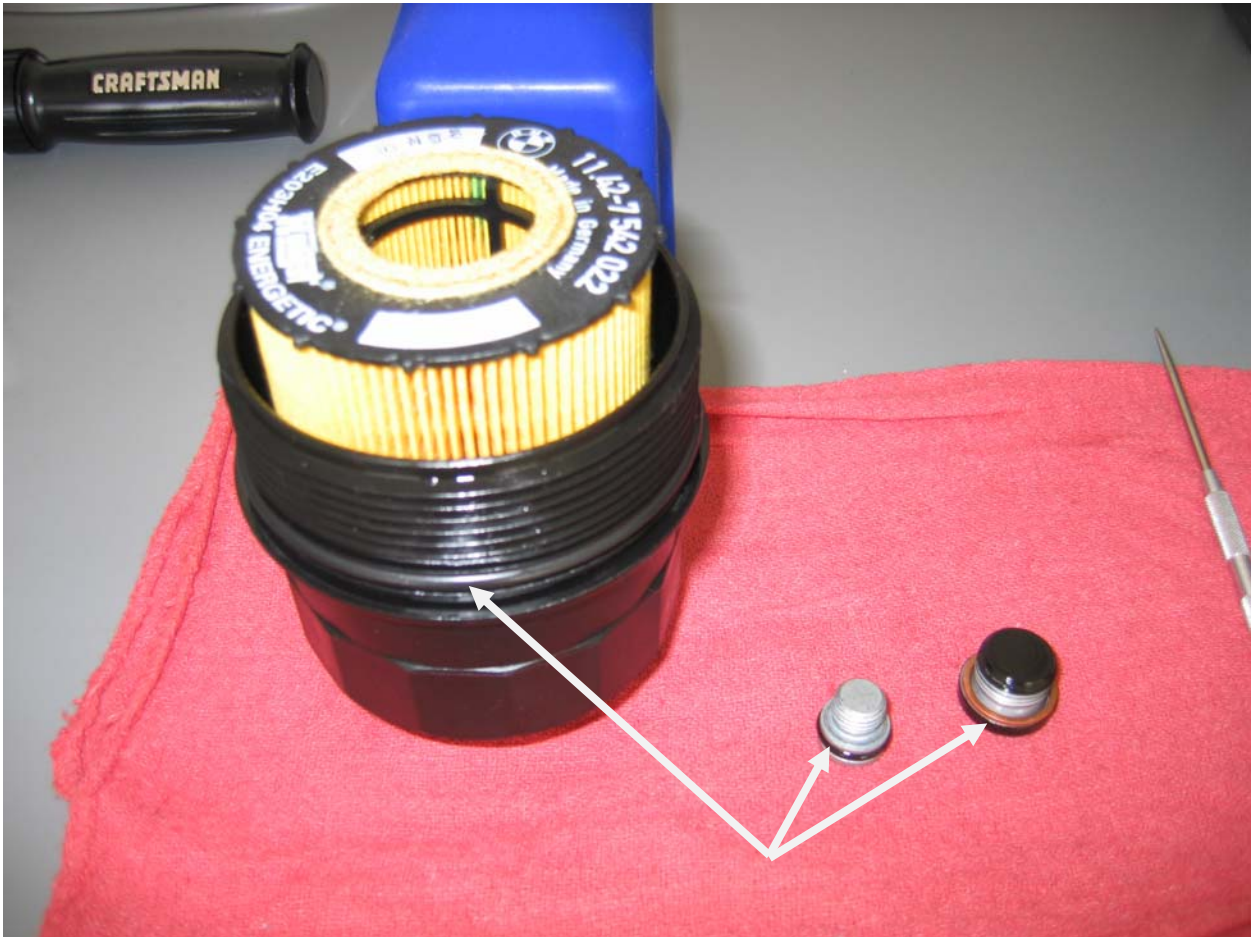


4. Once the screws are removed, the cover is held by a plastic retainer. Flip the cover out of the way to prevent it from getting sprayed with oil as you drain the oil pan.



5. Place your drain bucket (expect ~ 9qts of oil) under the oil drain plug.
6. Remove the oil drain plug with an 8mm hex socket and allow to drain fully. If you are collecting an oil sample for analysis, try to catch the sample halfway through this drain step.
7. While you wait for the oil to drain, inspect the drain plug to make sure that the old washer came off with the plug.
8. Remove the oil filter housing drain plug with a 6mm hex socket and allow to drain.
9. Remove the oil filter housing with a 24mm socket. The filter element should come out with the housing, but it may remain attached to the engine. Use a plastic bag to wrap over it and pull it down (gently) if this happens. Discard the element.
10. Clean the drain plug and replace the old washer with the new one from your new oil filter kit.
11. Clean the housing's drain plug and replace the small O-ring with the new one included in your oil filter kit. Use some new oil to lubricate the O-ring before installing it in the plug.
12. Remove the old O-ring from the filter housing and replace it with the new one included in your oil filter kit. Lubricate new O-ring before installing.

13. Insert the new filter element into the housing. You should feel it snap into place. The O-rings and washer are shown installed below:



14. Re-install the oil drain plug and torque to 25Nm.
15. Re-install the filter canister and torque to 25Nm (or to spec marked on housing body).
16. Re-install the canister drain plug and torque to 10Nm (or to spec marked on housing body).
17. Pour 8-1/2 qts of oil into engine oil fill. Replace engine oil fill cap.
18. Start the engine and look for any "low oil"-related warnings. **Shutoff the engine if any oil level warning persists for more than a couple of seconds.**
19. If no warnings are displayed, allow engine to run for a couple of minutes. Inspect area around drain plugs and oil filter housing for leaks.
20. If all looks ok, shutoff engine, replace the access cover and tighten the three screws.
21. Lower the car from ramps and drive the car for a few miles.
22. Check the engine oil level display through IDrive (Engine Oil should read "OK" and level display should be green up to max level).
23. Reset your oil service interval (if applicable).

Done!