

A new look for the Mazda3 in 2012 -by Liana Reiners

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In order to make it an even more attractive proposition to prospective buyers, the Mazda3 has undergone a few changes for the 2012 model year. It is still available as a four-door sedan and a five-door hatchback and there are four specification levels in the range. The Original marks the entry into the range followed by the Active and Dynamic models, with the Individual topping the line-up.

The Mazda3 now boasts a redesigned front end, with the main feature being the large, five-point grille that has been updated to create a richer and more stylish impression. The corners of the front bumper now have a larger fascia around the air-inlets, new round fog lights embedded in their lower sections and a lower front lip that protrudes outwards more than before. Changes were also made to the back of the five-door version, with a slimmer rear bumper and the reflectors placed closer to the side panels.



In the cabin of the updated Mazda3, the previous silver of the lower section of the dashboard middle console is now black, while the ringed dials and controls that are used most by the driver are now finished in brighter satin polish silver. The red graphics of the multi-information display and LCD have been changed to white, making them easier to see. The twin-metre driver cluster is also optimized in the new model to enable easier reading, especially during the day.

As far as ride and handling are concerned, updates were made to the aerodynamics of the vehicle, while noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) were also improved. At the same time, the safety package was enhanced, with Individual models now boasting a traction control system (TCS) and dynamic stability control (DSC) as standard features.

Doing duty in the updated Mazda3 range is a range of fuel-efficient, high-energy powerplants. First up is a 1,6-litre, four-cylinder DOHC 16-valve engine producing maximum torque of 145 Nm at 4 000 r/min and maximum power of 77 kW at 6 000 r/min. On the other hand, the 2-litre, inline four-cylinder DOHC 16-valve engine produces 110 kW at 6 500 r/min and peak torque of 187 Nm at 4 000 r/min. Finally, the 2,5-litre, inline four-cylinder DOHC 16-valve engine produces maximum torque of 227 Nm at 4 000 r/min and peak power of 122 kW at 6 000 r/min.

The Mazda3 offers 15 000 km service intervals, a four-year/120 000 km comprehensive manufacturer warranty, as well as the MazdaMotion five-year/90 000 km service plan. A three-year roadside assistance plan comes standard with the purchase of any Mazda vehicle.

Pricing for the updated Mazda3 range is as follows:

Mazda3 1.6 Original	R210 650
Mazda3 1.6 Active	R225 280
Mazda3 1.6 Dynamic	R244 440
Mazda3 2.0 Individual	R288 920
Mazda3 Sport 1.6 Original	R210 650
Mazda3 Sport 1.6 Active	R225 280
Mazda3 Sport 1.6 Dynamic	R244 440
Mazda3 Sport 2.5 Individual	R297 950

