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Car News

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Revs

Columnists

Fast Poll

Letter To The Editor

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## CAR NEWS

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(08:30 Dec. 10, 2003)

### BMW 6 Series convertible to drop its top at Detroit show

BMW didn't wait long to chop the top of the 6 Series. The German automaker, on the heels of its all-new coupe that made its world debut at Frankfurt in September, is set to unveil a convertible version of the vehicle at the 2004 Detroit show.



The newly developed soft top roof on the 6 Series convertible was designed to capture the look of the coupe as much as possible. It dampens exterior noise with a noise- and heat-insulating layer made of PUR plastic between the rubberized outer layer and the inner lining. The vertical rear window is made of glass and is electrically heated. The rear window can be electrically retracted completely into the luggage compartment bulkhead with the roof both open and closed, creating a draft-free ventilation effect similar to that offered by a sliding roof in a sedan. All side windows can also be fully retracted into the body of the car.

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- [BMW unwraps 6 Series with exclusive Neiman Marcus 645Ci Coupe](#)  
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With the top down, the rear window can be raised allowing it to act as a wind deflector for all four passengers. Opening with full power operation, the soft top disappears beneath the firm cover on the roof compartment within a matter of seconds, according to BMW. The driver is able to open or close the fully-automated top from the cockpit by pressing a button or turning the key in the door lock. The top can also be operated in stop-and-go traffic up to a speed of 20 mph. All windows close in the process and the soft top locks and unlocks.

Although the roof is contoured as on the coupe, BMW says adults will enjoy ample headroom in back with the top up. Both rear seats are made convenient to reach due to an easy access system on the driver's and front passenger's seat. The seat belts are also integrated into the front seats, adding to ease of passenger entry and exit.



The luggage compartment has a capacity of 10.6 cu. ft. with the roof open and 12.4 cu. ft. with the roof closed thanks to the variable roof compartment that folds up.

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Power driver and front passenger's seats are standard, including a triple memory function on the driver's seat.

The 645Ci convertible shares its 4.4-liter V8 with the coupe, which delivers 325 hp and maximum torque of 330 lb-ft. The car reaches 0-60 mph in around six seconds on its way to an electronically limited top-speed of 155 MPH, according to BMW.



A sport package is available for the convertible. In addition to sport seats and a sport steering wheel the package includes firmer shocks and springs and mixed-width 19-inch wheels with performance tires. The sport package also includes BMW's Active Steering. Active Steering enhances the driving experience at lower speeds increasing the amount the front wheels turn in relation to the amount the driver turns the steering wheel.

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