

2023 BMW X5 M Review

Sometimes, it's good to have more in an SUV than just luxury, amenities and practicality. Performance can transform a typical drive into an exciting experience, not just for the driver but for everyone in the car. Some performance SUVs compromise on certain aspects to become what they are, but the 2023 BMW X5 M delivers a well-rounded package that few can match, including some of BMW's SUVs. Its only flaw, which it shares with other M-labeled SUVs, is that the suspension is tuned for performance rather than comfort. This means a slightly firmer ride than your average SUV, even in the softest suspension settings. But trust us, once you've experienced the X5M's capabilities, the trade-off becomes a small price to pay. The 2023 X5 M Competition is even better, but we'll cover that in a separate review.

The Power Alone Is Likely To Convince You That You Need One

The 2023 BMW X5 M comes with a 4.4-liter twin-turbocharged V8, which makes 600 horsepower and 553 lb.ft sent to the rear wheels via an 8-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. That's already exciting enough to make you want to buy one, right? 0-60 mph takes approximately 3.6 seconds, which sounds quite impossible for a 5,500-pound SUV. What's disappointing is that, despite the 2023 BMW X5 M being capable of speeds nearing 200 mph, BMW limited the top speed in the 2023 model to 155 mph. Not even examples with the M Driver's package can reach 190 mph as the package only raises the top speed to 177 mph.

Performance Is The Focus At Every Touchpoint

Inside the 2023 BMW X5 M, the performance orientation is evident on every surface, from the leather bucket seats to the steering wheel and dashboard. The cabin is designed to excite and pamper, ensuring it meets the needs of those who want character and luxury without sacrificing either. The space inside is generous, with ample headroom and legroom for front and rear passengers. However, given that the second row is a bench, it doesn't get as many amenities as the front, which has heated seats with a memory setting and is electronically multi-adjustable. On the plus side, the rear seats offer the flexibility of a 40/20/40 split fold, making it easy to expand the already sizeable trunk space.

It's Appearance May Be Subtle, But It's Performance Is Anything But

Visually, the 2023 BMW X5 M doesn't speak for itself much, and it's quite hard to pick up that it's an M-infused SUV waiting to prove itself to anyone who dares doubt what it's capable of. But from the front, it's quite easy to pick up the difference compared to lower trim X5s, especially due to the larger grille and vents blacked out to match the car's character. There's also a matching color lip that improves aerodynamics and elevates the front end's appeal. The rear end takes a similar approach with a more pronounced diffuser and a quad exhaust setup that sounds gnarly even in the car's most subtle driving modes. The side profile is a mix of aggression and elegance with sharp body lines. However, the wider wheel arches, aggressive wing mirrors and decorative yet visually appealing fender vents show that there's probably more to the car than meets the eye.

Catered To Your Every Need

Whether performance-oriented or not, high-end SUVs are known to come expansively equipped, and the 2023 BMW X5 M is no exception. The cabin is outfitted with all that you could want, including a Harman Kardon sound system that sounds superb. Additionally, there's a 12.3-inch infotainment display on the dash that's intuitive and well-equipped, incorporating features like onboard navigation, real-time traffic display, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. Underneath, the car sits on an Active M suspension, which, like the throttle and transmission response, can be adjusted to meet your driving preferences. Convenience is well-catered for as well Convenience is well-catered for as well with BMW, including keyless entry and a power-operated tailgate, among a host of other features as part of the standard equipment. Safety has always been a priority for BMW, and the 2023 X5 M is equipped with a suite of advanced safety and driver assist features. Some include automatic emergency braking, blind spot monitoring, cross-traffic alert, lane departure warning and lane-keeping assist.

Buy One And You'll Drive Away Delighted

As a fairly recent release, expect prices for the 2023 BMW X5 M to average near its MSRP, roughly \$110,000. However, you might also come across listings in the \$85,000 to \$99,000 range, particularly for vehicles not equipped with additional options beyond the standard features. Already excited about buying one? Check out our available

options among BMW X5 listings, and if you'd like to take a look at other BMW performance SUVs we have for sale, check out our BMW listings.

Final Thoughts

Trying to combine the comfort of an SUV with performance is a tough ask, but BMW is one of the manufacturers who always do it right, and the 2023 BMW X5 M is proof of that. It masterfully combines the practicality of an SUV with the performance of a sports car, achieving a balance that's hard to find elsewhere. Its power is exhilarating, and its handling is remarkably agile despite its size.