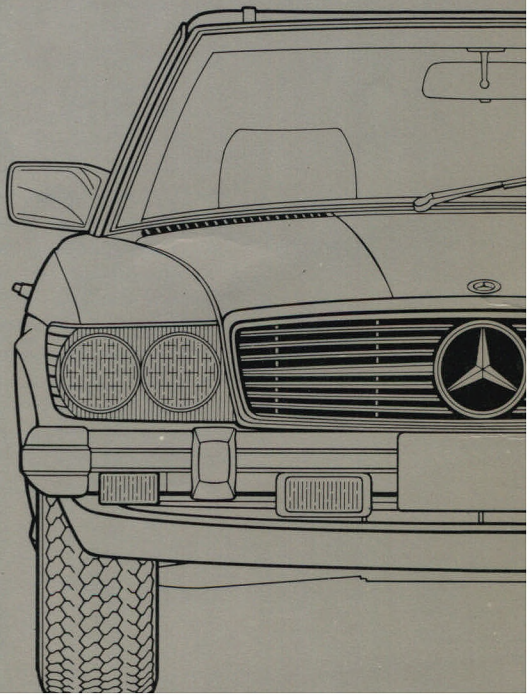
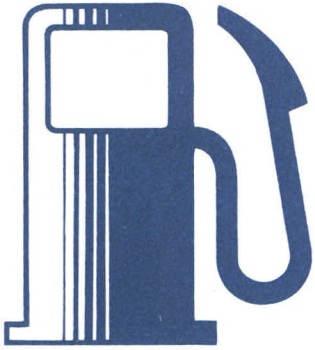
Mercedes-Benz

Owner's Manual

380 SL

1985





24

Drive Sensibly — Save Fuel

Fuel consumption depends to a great extent on driving habits and operating conditions.

In order to save fuel you should:

- ensure that tire pressures are correct
- not carry unnecessary loads
- remove ski racks or roof-mounted luggage racks when not in use
- not warm up your engine at idle and with the vehicle at standstill
- avoid frequent acceleration and deceleration
- have all the maintenance jobs specified by us carried out at regular intervals by an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

Driving in low temperature weather, in stop-and-go city traffic and on short hops, and in hilly country also increases fuel consumption.

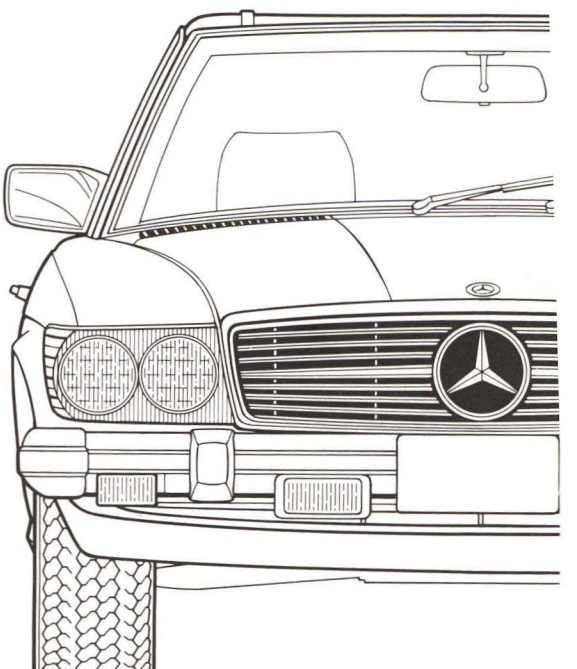
Mercedes-Benz

Owner's Manual

380 SL

Chassis 107

1985



Our company and staff wish you many hours of enjoyment with your new vehicle.

You have placed a lot of trust in our company name by purchasing a MERCEDES, from which you may expect that it will give you long service with a minimum of trouble, and is easy to operate.

We have just one request to make, hoping that it will benefit you as well:

Please do not put this manual aside without first carefully reading it.

You may notice that it contains many important recommendations that should make the operation of your MERCEDES easier and even increase your pleasure driving it.

We wish you many miles of motoring pleasure.
Daimler-Benz Aktiengesellschaft

Special equipment is also described in this manual, including operating instructions wherever necessary. Since there are special-order items, the descriptions and illustrations herein may vary slightly from the actual equipment of your vehicle.

If there are any equipment details that are not shown or described in this Owner's Manual, your MERCEDES-BENZ dealer will be glad to inform you of correct care and operating procedures.

The last page

Vehicle Operation

Driving

Vehicle Care

Practical Hints

Technical Data – Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc.

Vehicle Operation
Driving
Vehicle Care
Practical Hints
Technical Data – Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc.

Vehicle Operation

For more detailed descriptions see quoted pages.

1 Swivelling side ventilation outlets (page 24)

2 Control lever for side ventilation (page 24)

3 Parking brake release button (page 44)

4 Hood release lever (page 44)

5 Parking brake pedal (page 44)

6 Combination switch (page 22)

7 Lighting switch (page 21)

8 Instruction tag (except tourist vehicle). Use only unleaded gasoline

9 Cruise control (page 23)

10 Instrument cluster (page 10)

11 Horn control

12 Steering lock with ignition/starter switch (page 20)

13 Swivelling outlets for nonheated fresh air (page 24)

14 Outside temperature indicator (page 53)

15 Switch for heated rear window (page 30)

16 Switch for automatic antenna (page 41)

17 Switch for front dome lamps (page 31)

18 Radio (page 36)

19 Automatic climate control (page 24)

20 Ash tray with lighter (page 31, 64)

21 Switch for left power window (page 31)

22 Switch for left seat heater (page 15)

23 Switch for hazard warning flasher system

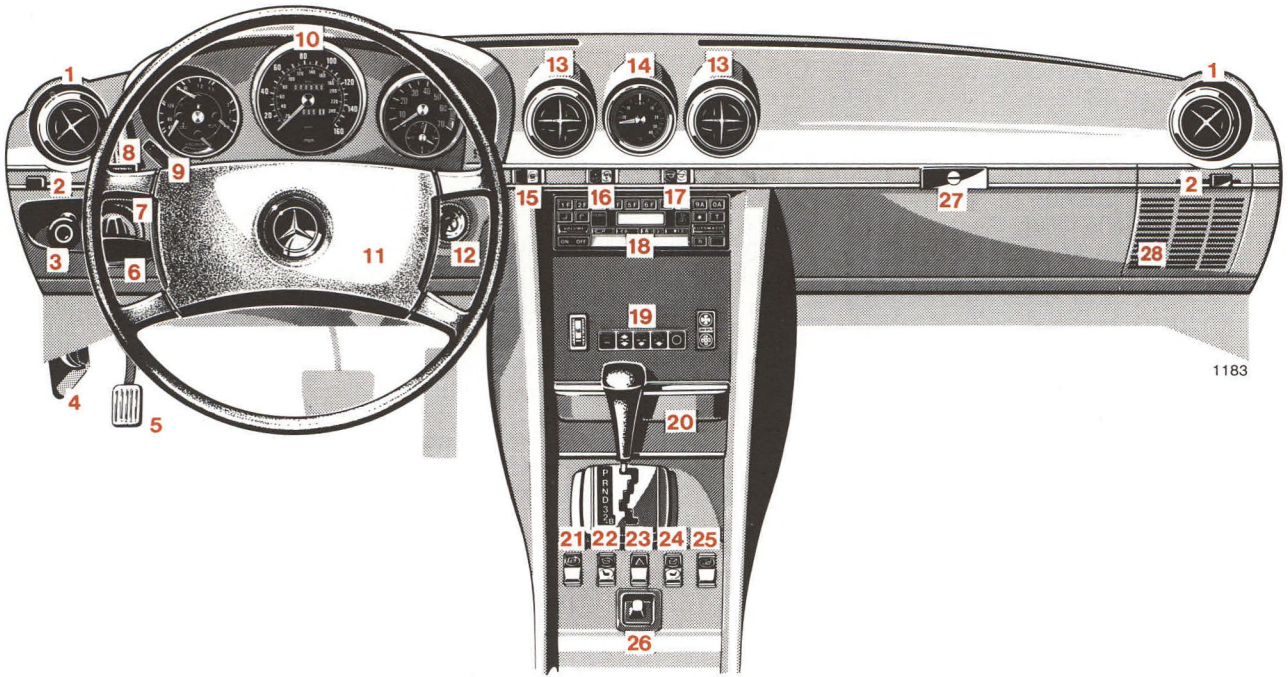
24 Switch for right seat heater (page 15)

25 Switch for right power window (page 31)

26 Adjusting lever for exterior mirror on front passenger side (page 29)

27 Glove compartment (to open, shift handle sideways). Only illuminated if steering lock is in position "1" or "2".

28 Loudspeaker cover, right and left


1
10
13
14
13
1
8
9
2
15
16
17
27
2
7
18
3
6
11
12
28
19
1183
4
5
20
P R N D 2 1
21
22
23
24
25
26

1 Economical driving indicator (ECONOMY). See page 54

2 Coolant temperature gauge
Up to red marking: Maximum permissible temperature for an anticorrosion/antifreeze-blended fill protecting down to −30° C/−22° F. See page 53

3 Fuel gauge with reserve warning lamp (yellow): Comes on when the steering lock key is moved to driving position "2" and must go out when the engine is idling. See page 53
Fuel reserve and capacity, refer to page 83 and last page

4 Oil pressure gauge (bar). See page 53

5 Main odometer

6 Trip odometer

7 Knob for clock adjustment (press in for adjustments)

8 Electric clock

9 Tachometer

10 Red marking on tachometer: Excessive engine revolutions

11 Turn signal indicator lamp, right (green)

12 O_2-Sensor replacement indicator lamp (red): When the indicator lamp comes on, the O_2-Sensor must be replaced

13 Seat belt warning lamp (red)

14 Brake pad wear indicator lamp (yellow): Lights up during braking if the front wheel brake pads are worn down. See page 51

15 Dimmer knob for instrument lamps, continuous adjustment

16 Supplemental restraint system indicator lamp (red). See page 18

17 ABS indicator lamp (yellow). See page 52

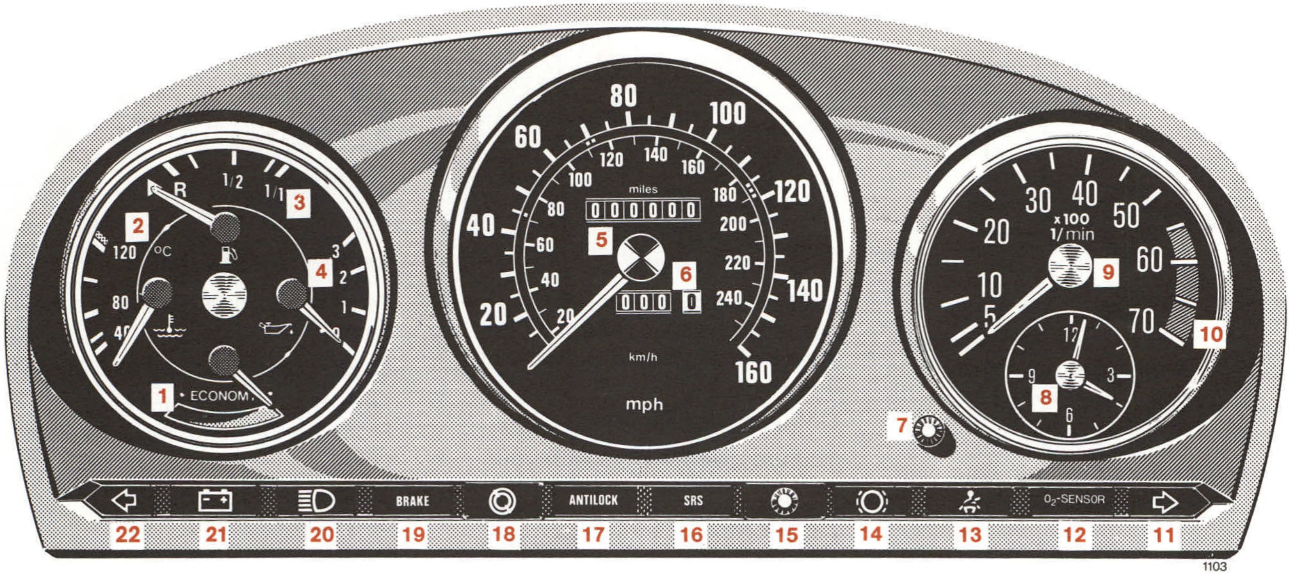
18 Resetting knob for trip odometer (push button)

19 Brake warning lamp (red) comes on if
- the parking brake is engaged
- too little brake fluid is in the reservoir

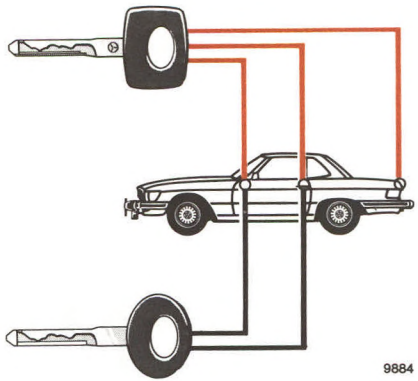
20 High beam indicator lamp (blue)

21 Charge indicator lamp (red): Comes on when the steering lock key is moved to driving position "2" and must go out when the engine is idling. See page 53

22 Turn signal indicator lamp, left (green)



1
ECONOM
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
miles
km/h
mph
x100
1/min
BRAKE
ANTILOCK
SRS
O_2-SENSOR
1103

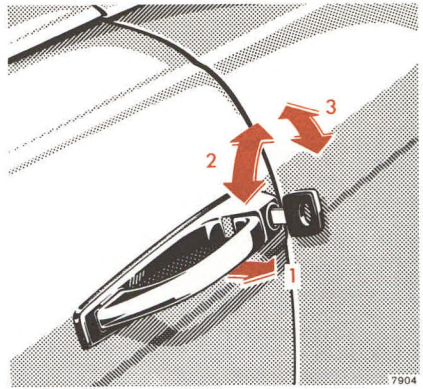


Flat Key

The flat key fits all vehicle locks. We recommend that you carry the flat key with you and keep it in a safe place so that it is always handy, if needed (e. g. in your wallet). Never leave the flat key in the vehicle.

Master Key – square head – fits all locks on the car.

Supplementary Key – rounded head – fits only the door locks and the steering lock. This key is intended to be used whenever the car is left with an attendant. Be sure to lock glove compartment and trunk with the master key.

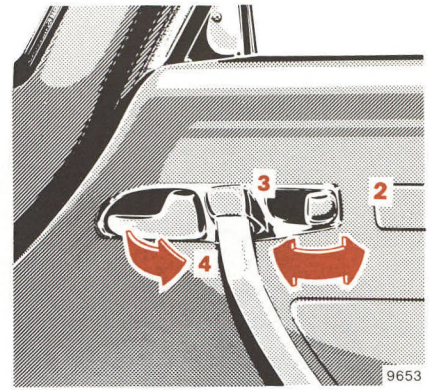


Obtaining Replacement Keys

You are given 4 keys with your vehicle. Replacement keys can be obtained only via an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer. For security reasons, obtaining replacement keys requires considerable time.

Opening the Doors

From outside: pull handle outwards (1).



From inside: pull handle in door panel (4).

Locking and Unlocking of Doors

From the outside: turn key.
From the inside: actuate safety catch.

2 Unlocking
3 Locking

The driver's door can be locked only if it is closed and the door latch has properly engaged.

Central Locking System

The central locking system enables the front passenger door, the fuel tank filler flap and the trunk lid to be locked or unlocked together with the driver's door. When locking or unlocking, the locking levers on both doors must move simultaneously. If one locking lever fails to do so, the lock of that particular door is not properly engaged. The door must then be opened and closed correctly.

With the central locking system in the locked position, the front passenger door can be locked and unlocked either with the locking lever or with the key.

Actuation of the locking lever on the front passenger door, however, is not possible when the central locking system is in the unlocked position.

The trunk lid can also be unlocked separately by turning the master key counterclockwise to the stop. Push the trunk lock button in with it and lift the lid. Return the key to its initial position and withdraw it. To lock the lid, close it firmly. It will then be locked again by the central locking system.

A provision has been made to facilitate permanent locking of the trunk lid for positive prevention of access to trunk by unauthorized persons.

Before leaving vehicle with an attendant, lock trunk with master key (square head) by turning key clockwise to stop (tumbler slot vertical), then provide attendant with round-headed supplementary key. Thus, the trunk lock has been excluded from the operation of the central locking system and cannot be opened except with the square-headed master key, that you keep in your possession.

To reverse this, turn trunk lock counterclockwise back to horizontal position of the tumbler slot with master key. Lock will then be re-engaged in central locking system; that is, it will automatically be locked or unlocked depending on whether the driver's door is locked or unlocked.

The central locking system operates on vacuum generated by the engine. A reservoir allows the central locking system to be actuated about five times after the engine is turned off. If the system can then no longer be engaged, idle engine for a short period.

If no vacuum is available, doors and trunk have to be locked individually with the key. The fuel tank filler flap, however, remains unlocked.

Note:

If the filler flap cannot be opened when the central locking system is unlocked, refer to "Unlocking of the Filler Flap" (page 76).

Adjustment of Driver's Seat and Front Passenger's Seat

Fore/aft adjustment: lift handle (1), push seat backward or forward and allow handle to re-engage.

Seat elevation (6 positions): Each time handle (2) is pulled up, the seat is raised by one notch. If the handle is pushed down completely, the seat will return to its lowest position. Afterwards, handle can be pulled up to engage the seat in its first position to avoid clicking noise.

Back rest tilt: turn handwheel (3).

For full reclining of backrest, seat should be moved to one of the forwardmost positions and head restraint removed. For driving, return backrest to upright position, push seat back, and replace head restraint.

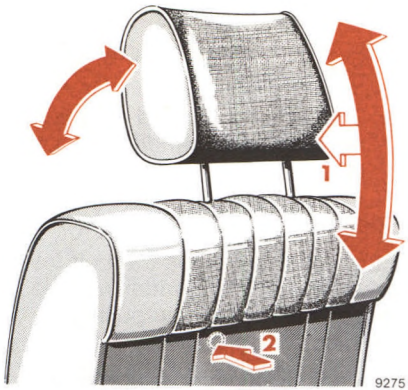
After disengaging the stop by lifting lever (4), the back rest can be folded forward.

Note:

Prior to operating the vehicle, the driver should adjust the seat height for proper vision as well as fore/aft placement and seat back angle to insure adequate control, reach, operation, and comfort. Be certain seat is "locked in" by sliding front/rear until full engagement is assured. The head restraint should also be adjusted for proper height so that when the cushion is tipped completely forward, it should form a cradle behind the seat occupant's head (see page 15).

Both the inside and outside rear view mirrors should then be adjusted for adequate rearward vision. Fasten seat belts.

All seat, head restraint, and rear view mirror adjustments as well as fastening of seat belts should be accomplished before the vehicle is put into motion.



Safety Head Restraints

Adjust head restraint to support the back of the head approximately at ear level. Do not extend the head restraint past the stop.

Height adjustment:

Pull head restraint slightly forward (1) and slide up or down.

Removing head restraints:

Pull head restraint up to the stop. Depress release button (2) to be felt under the covering material in rear of back rest and pull up head restraint quickly, holding it by the LH head restraint post (viewed in driving direction). Finally pull out head restraint completely with both hands.

Warning!

For your protection, drive only with properly positioned head restraints.

Seat Heater

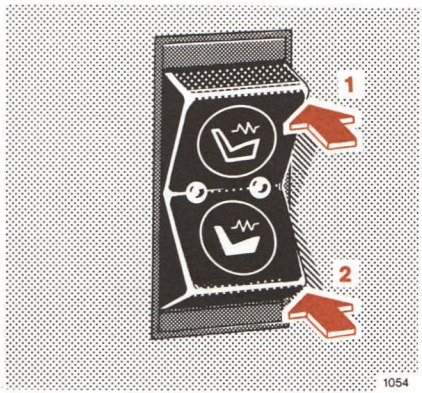
The seat heater can be switched on when the steering lock is in position "1" or "2".

Heater operation:

Push in upper switch portion; position 1 = normal heater operation, one indicator lamp lights up.

Push in lower switch portion; position 2 = rapid heating, both indicator lamps light up.

After approximately 5 minutes in the rapid heating mode, the heater automatically switches to normal operation and only one indicator lamp will stay on.



Turning off heater:

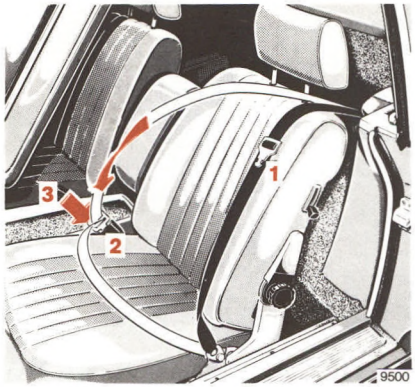
If one indicator lamp is on, press in upper part of switch, position 1.

If both control lamps are on, press in lower part of switch, position 2.

The heater automatically turns off after approximately 30 minutes of operation.

Note:

When in operation, the seat heater consumes a large amount of electrical energy. It is advisable not to use the seat heater longer than necessary.



Seat Belts and Emergency Tensioning Retractor

Your vehicle is equipped with seat belts and emergency tensioning retractors for all seats. The tensioning retractors are located in each belt's inertia reel and become operationally ready with the key in steering lock position "1" or "2".

Warning System:

The indicator is illuminated for 4 – 8 seconds after turning the steering lock key to position "2". If the seat belt of the driver's seat is not fastened a warning buzzer sounds simultaneously.

Fastening:

- Pull belt with latch plate (1) over shoulder and lap. Do not twist the belt doing this.
- Push latch plate (1) into buckle (2) until it clicks.
- The belt must be pulled snug and checked for snugness immediately after engaging it and during driving. If necessary, tighten the lap portion to a snug fit by pulling shoulder portion up.

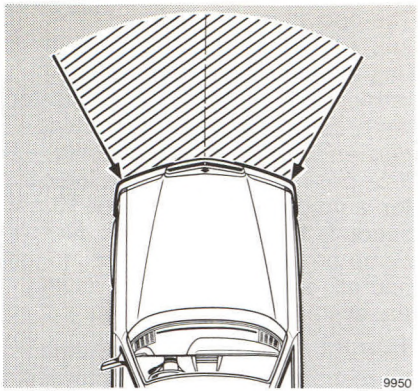
Unfastening:

- Push in the red button (3) in the belt buckle.
- The retractor should completely rewind the belt and latch plate (1).

Operation:

The inertia reel stops the belt from unwinding during sudden vehicle stops or when quickly pulling on the belt.

The locking function of the reel may be checked by quickly pulling out the belt.



The emergency tensioning retractors are designed to activate only during severe frontal impacts. They tighten the belts in such a way that they fit more snugly against the body restricting as much as possible its forward movement.

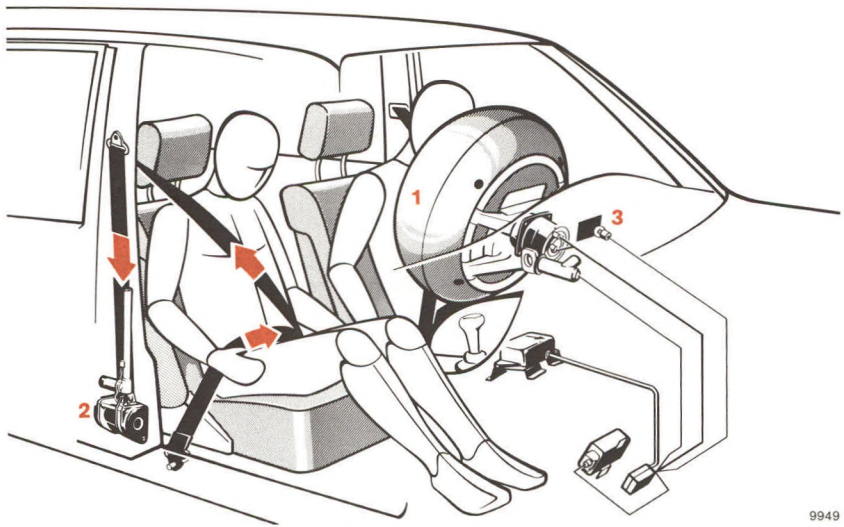
In cases of less severe frontal impacts, such as roll-overs, side or rear collisions, or other accidents without severe frontal forces, the emergency tensioning retractors will not be activated. The driver and passenger will then be protected by the fastened seat belts and inertia reel in the usual manner.

Notes:

No seat belt can be used for more than one person. Belts are not intended for children under the age of six or under the weight of 23 kg/50 lb.

For cleaning and care of the seat belts, see page 61.

For seat belt and emergency tensioning retractor safety rules, see page 19.



Driver Airbag

If your vehicle is additionally equipped with a driver airbag, this can be recognized by the letters "SRS" stamped into the steering wheel hub pad and by the indicator lamp "SRS" (Supplemental Restraint System) in the instrument cluster.

The airbag (1) is located in the steering wheel hub and, in conjunction with wearing the seat belts with tensioning retractors (2), provides increased protection for the driver.

The operational readiness of the supplemental restraint system (airbag and emergency tensioning retractor) is verified by the indicator lamp "SRS" (3) in the instrument cluster. With the key in steering lock position "1" or "2", the indicator lamp comes on for about 10 seconds then goes out. If it doesn't come on, doesn't go out, flickers on and off, or comes on while driving, the system is malfunctioning.

This will not cause the supplemental restraint system to be activated. However, we strongly recommend that you visit an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer immediately to have the system checked; otherwise the "SRS" may not be activated in a severe frontal accident.

The airbag is designed to activate only in severe frontal impacts (see illustration on page 17). Only during these types of impacts will it provide its supplemental protection. The driver should always wear the seat belt, otherwise it is not possible for the airbag to provide its intended protection.

In cases of less severe frontal impacts, such as roll-overs, side or rear collisions, or other accidents without severe frontal forces, the airbag will not be activated. The driver and passenger will then be protected by the fastened seat belts.

The activation of the "SRS" temporarily releases a small amount of dust from the driver airbag and all of the seat belt emergency tensioning retractors. This dust, however, is neither injurious to your health, nor does it indicate a fire in the vehicle.

The service life of the airbag extends to the date indicated on the glove compartment sticker. To provide continued reliability after that date, it should be inspected by an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer at that time.

Safety Guidelines for the Supplemental Restraint System – Seat Belts, Emergency Tensioning Retractor and Airbag

Damaged belts or belts that were highly stressed in an accident must be replaced and their anchoring points must also be checked. Use only belts installed or supplied by MERCEDES-BENZ.

Do not pass belts over sharp edges.

Do not make any modification that could change the effectiveness of the belts.

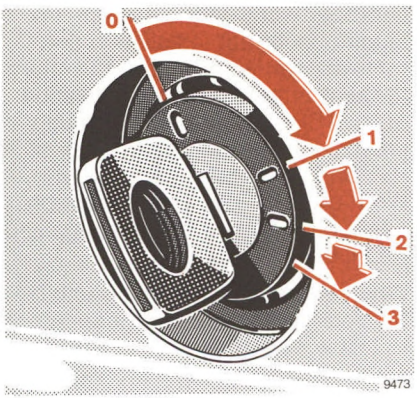
An airbag or tensioning retractor that was activated must be replaced.

No modifications of any kind may be made to any components or wiring of the "SRS". This includes the installation of additional trim material, badges, etc. over the steering wheel hub and installation of additional electrical/electronic equipment on or near "SRS" components and wiring.

Improper work on the system, including incorrect installation and removal, can lead to possible injury through an uncontrolled activation of the "SRS". In addition, through improper work there is the risk of rendering the "SRS" inoperative. Work on the "SRS" must therefore only be performed by an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

When scrapping the airbag unit or tensioning retractor, it is mandatory to follow our safety instructions. These instructions are available at every authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

When you sell the vehicle we strongly urge you to give notice to the subsequent owner if it is equipped with an "SRS" by alerting him to the applicable section in the Owner's Manual.



Steering Lock

0 Steering is locked when the key is withdrawn and the steering lock is engaged. The key can be withdrawn only in zero position.

Note:

Do not remove key from steering lock while the vehicle is in motion as this will cause the engagement of the steering lock thus rendering the vehicle inoperable.

1 Steering is unlocked.
(If necessary, move steering wheel slightly to turn the key clockwise to position "1".)

2 Driving position.

3 Starting position.

For starting and turning off the engine, refer to page 47.

Notes:

The following items can be operated with the key in steering lock position "1":

Wiper, windshield washer, headlamp flasher, lighter, glove compartment lamp, radio, seat heater, electrically adjustable exterior mirror.

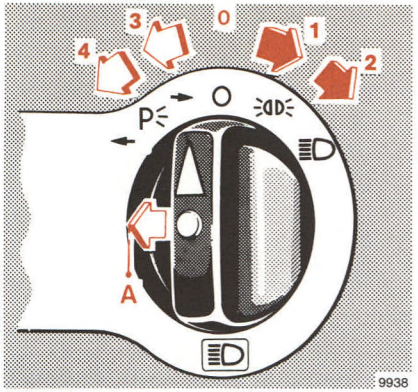
A warning buzzer sounds when the key has been left in steering lock positions "1" or "0" and the driver's door is opened.

With the engine at idle speed, the charging rate of the alternator (output) is limited.

It is therefore recommended to turn off unnecessary electrical consumers while driving in stop and go traffic. This precaution helps to avoid draining of the battery.

An effective measure to preserve battery power is to turn off the following consumers:

Seat heater, heated rear window.



Lighting Switch

0 Off-position

1 Parking lamps (includes side marker lamps, tail lamps, license plate lamps, instrument panel lamps)

2 Same as pos. 1 plus headlamps

3 Standing lamps, right

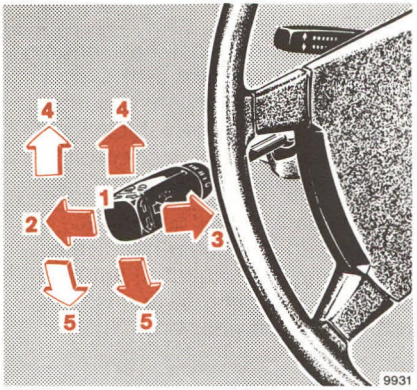
4 Standing lamps, left

A Fog lamps (turn to position 2 and pull out to first detent = same as position 2 plus fog lamps)

Notes:

With the steering lock key removed and the driver's door or the front passenger's door open, a warning buzzer sounds if the vehicle's exterior lamps are not switched off (standing lamps excepted).

Fog lamps will only operate together with low beam headlamps. Fog lamps are turned off automatically when lighting switch is returned to off-position.



Combination Switch

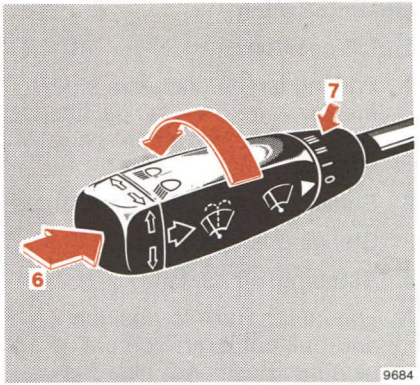
1 Low beam (with lighting switch turned clockwise two notches)

2 High beam (with lighting switch turned clockwise two notches)

3 High beam flasher (high beam available independent of lighting switch position)

4 Turn signals, right

5 Turn signals, left



To operate the turn signals, move the combination switch past the point of resistance (up or down). The switch is automatically cancelled when the steering wheel is turned by a large enough angle.

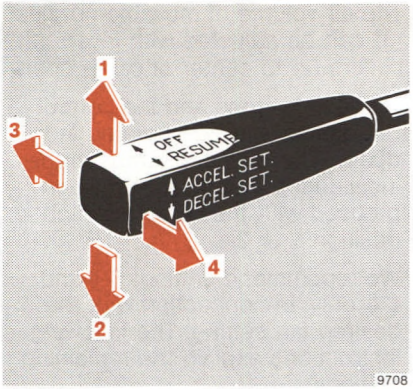
To signal minor directional changes of the vehicle, such as changing lanes on a highway, move combination switch to the point of resistance only and hold it there.

6 Control for windshield washer system
When the washer system is switched on, the wipers also operate.

7 Windshield wiper control
0 Windshield wiper switched off
I Intermittent wiping
II Normal wiper speed
III High wiper speed

Note:

If one of the turn signals fails, the turn signal indicator system flashes and sounds at a faster sequence than under normal operating conditions.



Cruise Control

Any given speed above approximately 40 km/h/25 mph can be maintained with the cruise control by operating the switch.

1 Setting (briefly push switch)
Accelerating (hold switch)

2 Setting (briefly push switch)
Decelerating (hold switch)

Normally the vehicle is accelerated to the desired speed with the accelerator. Speed is set by briefly pushing the switch to position 1 or 2. The accelerator can then be released. The speed can be increased (e. g. for passing) by using the accelerator. As soon as the accelerator is released, the previously set speed will be resumed automatically.

If a set speed is to be increased or decreased slightly, e. g. to adapt to the traffic flow, hold switch in position 1 or 2 until the desired speed is reached. When the switch is released, the newly set speed remains.

3 Cancelling
To cancel the cruise control, briefly push lever to position 3. When you step on the brake pedal or the vehicle speed falls below approx. 40 km/h/25 mph, for example when driving upgrade, the cruise control will be cancelled.

4 Resume
If the lever is briefly pushed to position 4 when driving at a speed exceeding approximately 40 km/h/25 mph, the vehicle resumes the speed which was set prior to the cancellation of the cruise control. The last memorized speed is cancelled when the key in the steering lock is turned to position "1" or "0".

Note:

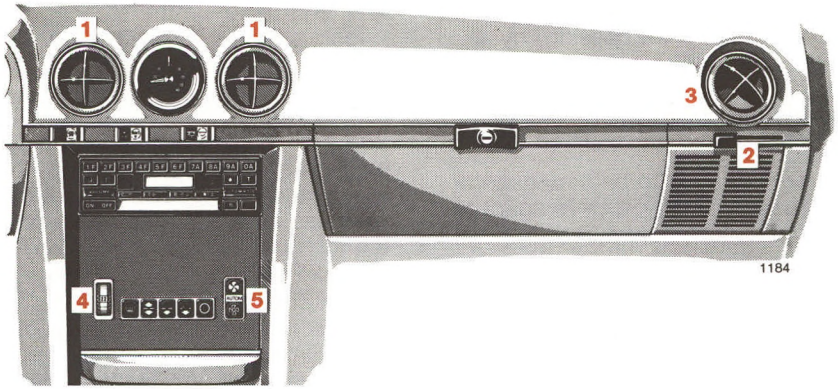
If the engine does not brake the vehicle sufficiently while driving on a downgrade the speed you set on the cruise control may be exceeded and you may have to step on the brake pedal to slow down. As soon as the grade eases, the cruise controlled speed will again be maintained as long as the brakes were not previously applied.

Important:

Only use the cruise control if the traffic conditions make it advisable to travel at a steady speed.

Position "Resume" should be engaged only if the driver is fully aware of the previously set speed and wishes to resume this particular preset speed.

When driving with the cruise control, the transmission selector lever must not be shifted to position "N" as otherwise the engine will overrev.



For proper operation of the automatic climate control system, keep the windows closed, the soft top up or the hardtop in place.

The engine must be running for the ACC unit to work.

Heating, cooling and air distribution within the vehicle's interior is automatically controlled.

Furthermore, settings are available for extreme weather conditions, enabling the defogging of the windshield or air ventilation to top and bottom. This is accomplished with the temperature selector (4), the push buttons, and the fan switch (5).

The air volume of movable nozzles (3) can be adjusted with levers (2). Levers (2) to center of car = open.

All push buttons and fan control buttons should be operated individually. The indicator lamps in the individual buttons light up when pressed with the lighting switch in position 1 or 2.

We recommend settings and only, in connection with the desired fan setting. The following instructions explain the remaining settings.

Temperature Selection (° C)

The interior temperature can be adjusted by turning the temperature selector wheel. The selected temperature is reached as quickly as possible and maintained. A basic setting of 22° C/72° F is recommended. In order to avoid undesirable temperature fluctuations, a set temperature should be readjusted in small increments.

To override the automatic climate control, turn the temperature selector wheel to either extreme end position "MAX" or "MIN".

"MIN" = Peak cooling performance, the system operates mostly with recirculated air and a small amount of fresh air is added. If the fan control is set to "AUTOM", it will run continuously in speed No. 5.

"MAX" = Maximum heating performance. If the fan control is set to "AUTOM", it will run continuously in speed No. 5.

Fan Setting

Selection for fan settings can be made as follows:

Push upper button for maximum fan speed (6th speed).

Push lower button for minimum fan speed (1st speed).

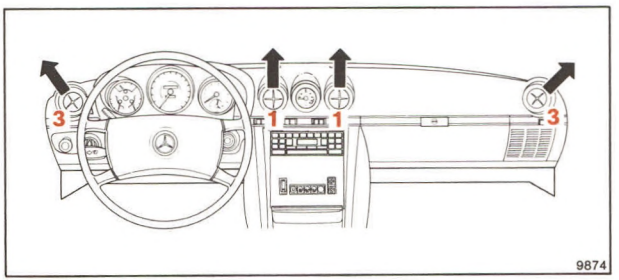
Push middle button (spring loaded) for automatic control of air supply within 2nd through 5th fan speed range.

Setting = Always maximum fan speed.

Functions

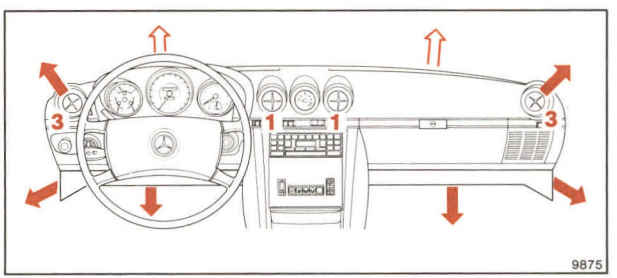
Off

In this setting, the air fresh supply to the interior of the car is shut off, (to prevent entrance of odors, i.e. while driving through tunnels, etc. or to prevent the entrance of water from automatic car wash). Use this setting only temporarily while driving.



Economy setting – Ventilation

Normal setting – Cooling



Enonomy setting – Heating

Normal setting – Heating

EC (ECONOMY) = Economical setting; the air conditioning compressor stays off.

In any other settings, the air conditioning compressor comes on with ambient temperatures above +2° C/ +36° F.

We recommend this setting to be used with cool outside temperatures so that the air conditioning compressor stays off in order to save fuel.

In the ventilation mode, air is emitted from nozzles (1) and (3).

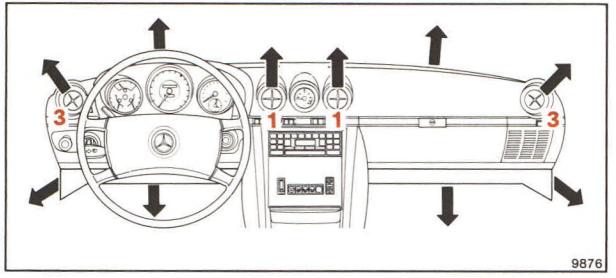
In the heating mode, warm air is primarily supplied to the foot area. In addition, air will be channeled to the nozzles (3) and the doors. Only an amount of air sufficient to prevent fog build-up under normal climatic conditions will be channeled to the windshield. In the heating mode, air will occasionally be channeled to the nozzles (1).

With cold outside temperatures, the fresh air supply and the fan remain turned off until the engine coolant has warmed up slightly.

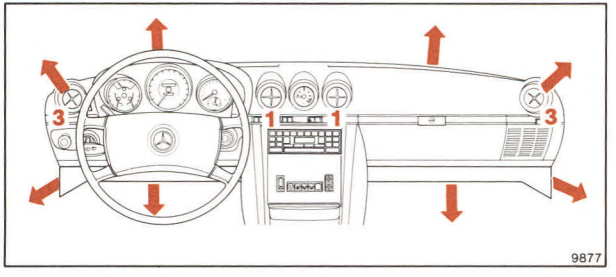
Normal Setting

We recommend this setting with humid and warm outside temperatures.

The setting corresponds with setting but, in addition, the air can be cooled as necessary.



Multi-Level ventilation – Cooling

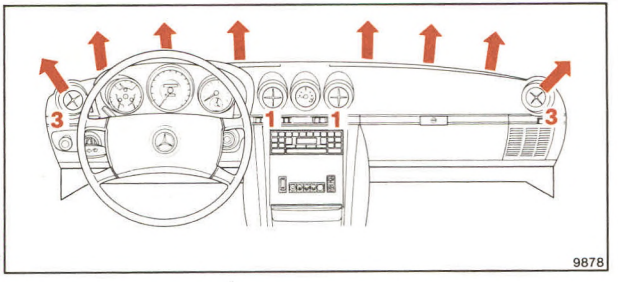


Multi-Level ventilation – Heating

Multi-Level

This setting is necessary for clearing a fogged windshield. As soon as possible, reset to or .

In the heating mode, air will be channeled to the windshield, the foot area, the nozzles (3) and to the doors; in the cooling mode, additionally to the nozzles (1). In the heating mode, warm air will be emitted periodically from the nozzles (1).



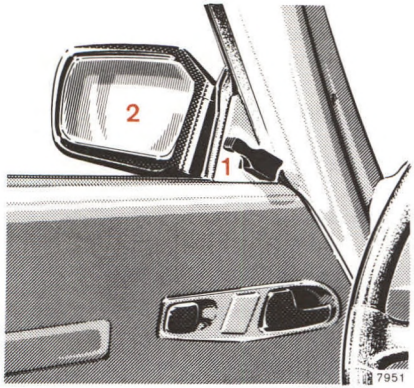
Defrosting

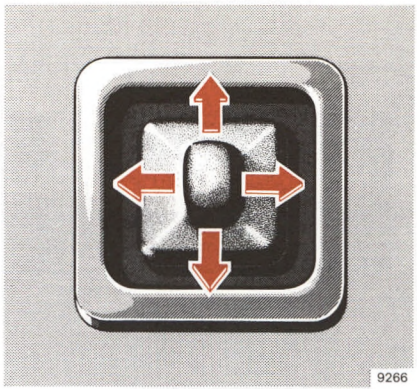
Defrosting

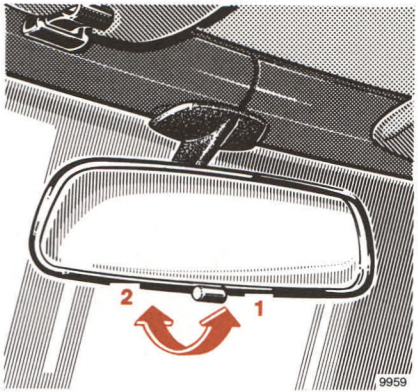
Independent of the position of the temperature selector wheel and the fan speed setting, maximum heated air will be channeled to the windshield and nozzles (3), for side window defrosting.

Note:

The air conditioner removes considerable moisture from the air during operation. It is normal if water drips on the ground through openings in the car floor.







Exterior Mirrors

Driver's side:

The exterior mirror (2) can be adjusted from inside the vehicle by moving adjusting lever (1) in the desired direction.

Passenger side:

Turn key in steering lock to position "1" or "2". The exterior mirror can be adjusted by means of the switch.

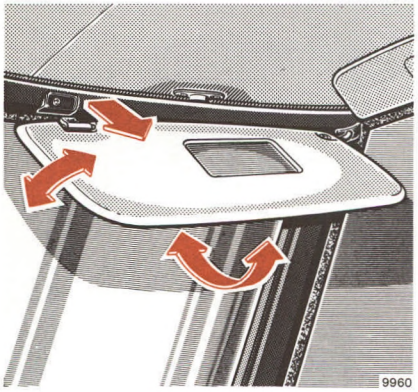
Note:

If the mirror housing has been forcibly moved from its normal position, it must be repositioned by applying firm pressure.

Inside Rear View Mirror

The mirror can be tilted to the anti-glare night position by means of the lever at its lower edge.

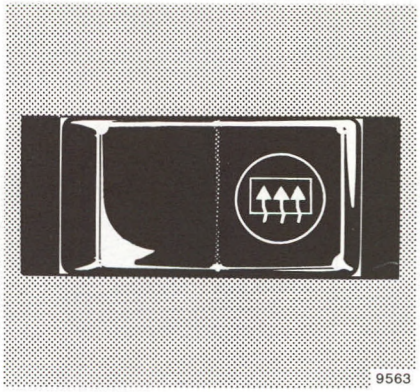
1 = Normal position
2 = Anti-glare night position.



Sun Visors

Swing sun visors down to protect against sun glare.

If sunlight enters through the side window, disengage visor from inner mounting and swing to the side.



Heated Rear Window

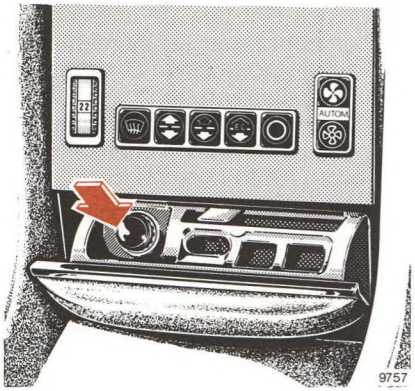
With engine running, press symbol side of rocker switch to turn on, press left side to turn off.

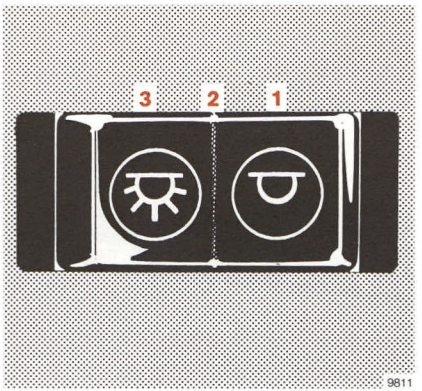
When the rear window heater is turned on, the indicator lamp in the switch comes on.

A heavy load is imposed on the battery due to the high power requirement. For this reason, switch off the heated rear window as soon as it is demisted or defrosted. It is shut off automatically after a maximum of 20 minutes. Remove snow or ice from window before starting to drive.

Shelf below Rear Window

The shelf below the rear window should not be used to carry objects. This will prevent such objects from being thrown about and injuring vehicle occupants during an accident or sudden maneuver.





Lighter

Turn key in steering lock to position "1" or "2".

Press in lighter; it will pop out automatically when hot.

Interior Lamps

The switch for the front dome lamps has 3 positions.

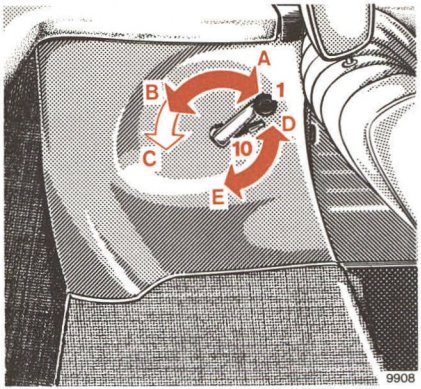
Position 1: the lamps are switched on and off (delayed) by the door contact switches.

Position 2: lamps are switched off permanently.

Position 3: lamps are switched on permanently.

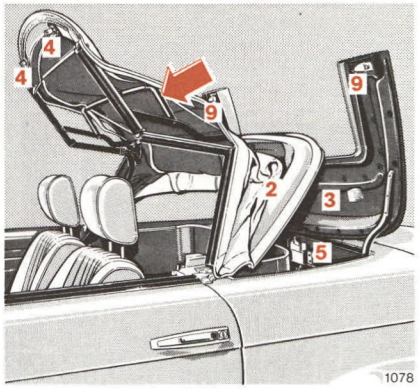
Power Windows

The power windows can only be operated with the steering lock key in position "2".



If possible, park vehicle in the shade as continuous exposure to sun rays can prematurely deteriorate of the soft top material.

To lower or raise the soft top or to remove or attach the hardtop, find two locking handles in a bag stowed in the glove compartment. They are used to engage or disengage locks (4). Put locking handles back into the glove compartment after use.

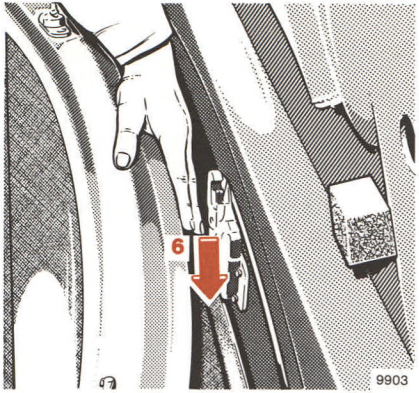


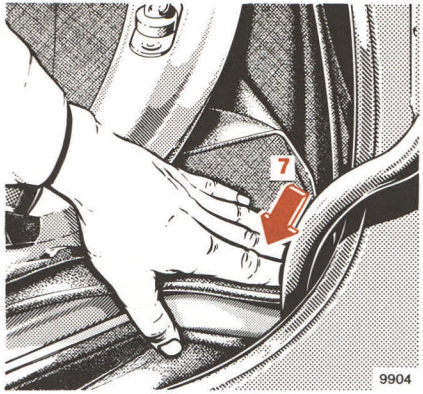
Lowering the soft top:

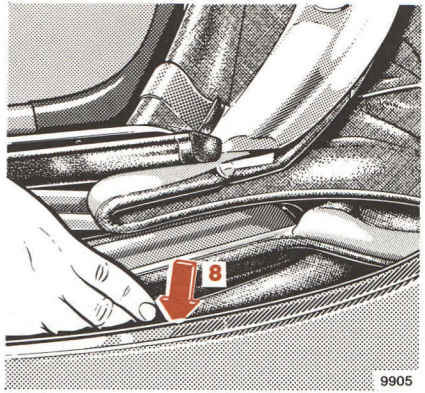
A wet or frozen top must not be folded until thawed and dry.

Open side windows or doors before raising or lowering the soft top.

1. Unlock rear bow (2) and compartment cover (3) by rotating lever (1) to position C. Lever will automatically return to position B. If the rear bow cannot be raised in this position, move lever (10) to position E.
2. Lift rear bow to an upright position. In doing this, be sure the rear window is folded inward free of kinks.
3. Open top storage compartment cover (3).
4. Disengage top framework at front by turning locks (4) inwards. Remove handle after turning lock.
5. Bring the front bow back. Make sure that the frame bow (arrow) pivots to its rearmost position, to prevent damage to the top.







6. Guide the top into its storage compartment (5).

   To avoid curling the edges of the soft top, tuck in the edges so that the material is not stored with lifted edges:

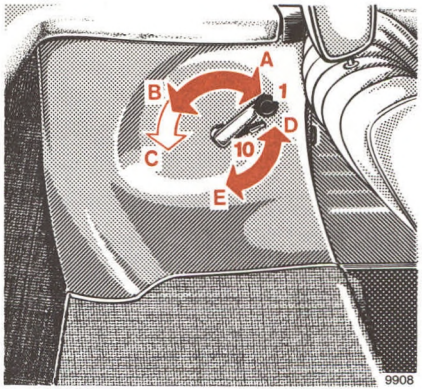
   (6) under lock,
   (7) under the left and right hinge area,
   (8) at the left and right side area.

7. Tighten the locks (4) with the locking handles (rotate each handle to its outboard position).

8. Close top storage compartment cover, making sure that both sides (9) are locked.

Raising the soft top:

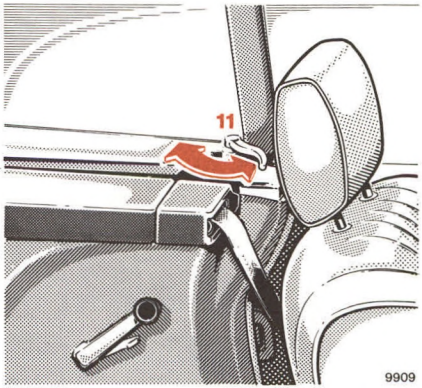
1. Rotate lever (1) to position C and open storage compartment cover (3).
2. Loosen locks (4) with locking handles (rotate each handle to its inboard position).
3. Pull the top out of the storage compartment, unfolding it forward to insert the locks (4) in their corresponding latching holes in the windshield header bar.
4. While pulling top down tighten framework by turning locks (4) outwards. Remove locking handles.
5. Close top storage compartment cover, making sure that both sides (9) are locked.
6. Fold down top until brace locks in place, then tighten top brace with crank (1) (position A). Lever (10) must be in position D.



Removal or attachment of the hardtop is best done at an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer, although this can be carried out by 2 persons.

The soft top must be completely dry before it is placed in the storage compartment.

To remove or attach the hardtop, find two locking handles in a bag stowed in the glove compartment.



They are used to engage or disengage the locks in windshield header bar and behind the doors (11). Put locking handles back into the glove compartment after use.

The hardtop has five latching points:

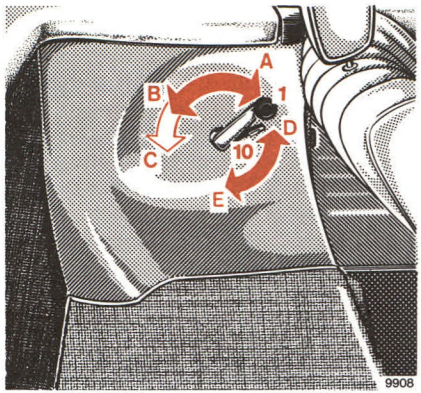
Front = two locks in windshield header bar

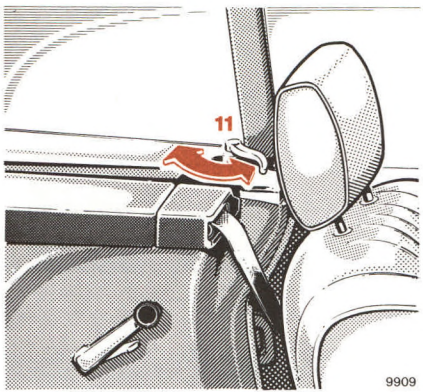
Side = one lock behind each door (11)

Rear = locking pin on hardtop.

Removal of hardtop:

1. Disconnect plug and socket of the heated rear window in the R-H rear compartment.
2. Place lever (1) in position B, lever (10) in position E.
3. Turn side locks (11) rearwards to the stop with locking handles.
4. Insert locking handles into windshield header bar locks and turn inwards. Remove locking handles.
5. Lift the top carefully from its five latching holes and remove to the rear.

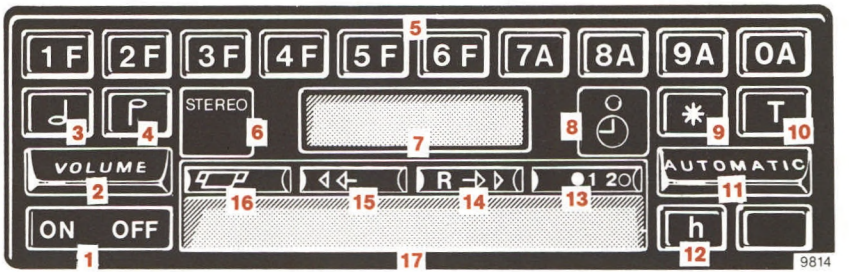




The soft top may become moldy if it is kept enclosed in the storage compartment for an extended period. Unfold and air it thoroughly (do not expose to the sun) at regular intervals during the wet and cold seasons.

Attaching hardtop:

1. Move lever (1) to position B and lever (10) to position D.
2. Install hard top with caution to avoid paint damage. Lower hard top slowly. All locking pins should be engaged into their respective locks at the same time.
3. Insert both locking handles into the forward locks and swing outwards.
4. Insert locking handles into side locks (11) and turn completely forward to the stop.
5. Move lever (1) to position A.
6. Connect plug and socket of the heated rear window in the R-H rear compartment.



Electronic Radio

1 On/Off switch ON OFF

2 Volume control VOLUME

3 Bass control

4 Treble control

5 Push buttons for AM/FM band selection, station frequency selection, station presetting and clock setting 1F through 0A

6 Stereo indicator lamp STEREO

7 Digital display for station frequency, station push button number, AM/FM band 07 : 30, and time display

8 Recessed button for setting time

9 Function control button

10 Timer button to control switch-on time of radio T

11 Automatic or manual search station seeker bar AUTOMATIC

12 Time display button h

13 Cassette track selector switch and track indicator

14 Fast tape rewind locking button

15 Fast tape forward locking button

16 Cassette eject button

17 Cassette door

To turn the radio on or off, the steering lock key must be in position "1" or "2".

To turn the radio ON

Press "ON" side of ON OFF switch. The radio will begin operating on the last station, volume and tone setting stored before the last turn off.

The radio can also be turned on by inserting a tape cassette through the cassette door.

To turn the radio OFF

Press the "OFF" side of the ON OFF switch.

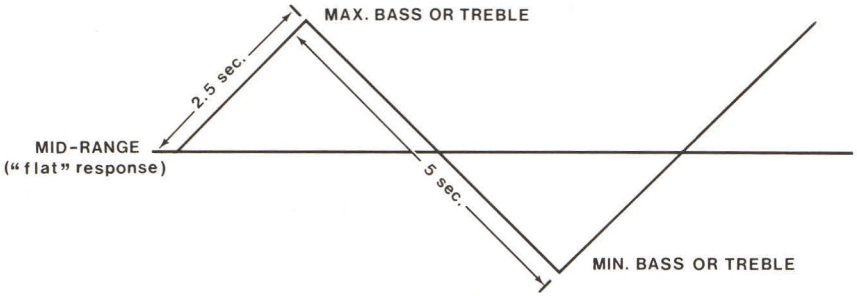
Volume adjustment

To reduce volume, press volume switch VOLUME downward; to increase volume, press volume switch VOLUME upward.

A fader control, installed in the center console, allows for balancing the sound level between the front and rear speakers.

To adjust the tone characteristic

To set the radio to a "flat" tone setting (bass and treble at mid-range setting), briefly press both tone controls ♩ ♪ simultaneously.



Upon pressing either tone button, the tone level for that function (either bass ♩ or treble ♪) will begin increasing. It stops increasing when the button is released or when the maximum tone level is reached (approx. 2.5 seconds).

After reaching the maximum tone level, the tone control will stay at that level unless the tone button is released and pressed again.

Once the tone button is pressed again the tone level will start decreasing. It will stop decreasing when the button is released or when the minimum tone level is reached (approx. 5 seconds).

After reaching the minimum tone level, the tone control will stay at that level unless the tone button is released and pressed again. After pressing the tone button again the tone level will begin to increase and the cycle is repeated.

Note: It takes approx. 5 seconds to go from minimum tone level to maximum tone level.

To select AM or FM

Press any of the buttons marked 1F through 6F to tune the radio to the FM band.

Press any of the buttons marked 7A through 0A to tune the radio to the AM band.

To tune to a station

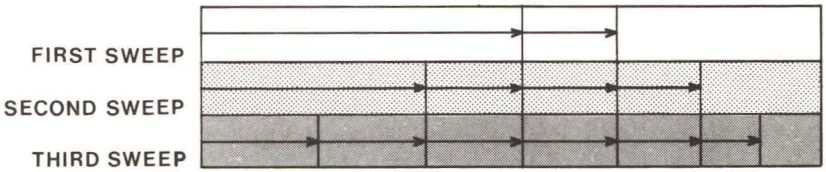
Stations can be tuned in by using automatic search, direct frequency dialing, manual tuning, or by preset push buttons. The frequency of the station selected is indicated on the digital display.

Automatic station search

Switch to the wave band desired by pressing any of the following buttons: for FM, buttons 1F through 6F, for AM, buttons 7A through 0A.

By pressing the automatic station seeker bar AUTOMATIC upward the radio will search for stations in ascending frequencies, by pressing down it will do so in descending frequencies. The direction of automatic searching can be reversed by pressing the bar AUTOMATIC in the respective direction. In order to arrive at a desired station without stopping, the bar has to be held in the desired direction.

The radio is programmed to automatically search the entire band at three sensitivity levels. During its first sweep, only the most powerful stations received will be selected and locked in. During the next sweep, the less powerful and during the third sweep, the weak stations will also be locked in.



If the station seeker bar is activated within 8 seconds after the radio is tuned to a station, then the search operation will be continued at the same sensitivity level. If 8 seconds are exceeded, the radio will revert to searching only the most powerful stations.

Direct frequency dialing

In order to select a station with a known frequency, select the wave band, press the function control button ✱ and then enter the frequency by pressing the corresponding push buttons.

Example:	FM 98.5 MHz	AM 1050 KHz
Press any button marked	1 F through 6 F	7A through 0A
Press the function button	✱	✱
Enter frequency by pressing	9A, 8A, 5 F	1 F, 0A, 5 F, 0A

When dialing a frequency directly, the number of the push buttons is not displayed on the panel. The wave band is indicated by showing "MHz" for FM or "KHz" for AM.

Note:

All AM stations have allocated frequencies ending with a "0".
All FM stations have allocated frequencies ending with an odd (uneven) digit after the decimal point.

Broadcasters sometimes may not give their exact frequency but the next closest even number.

US radio frequency ranges:
AM 540 – 1600 KHz
FM 88.1 – 107.9 MHz

Manual tuning (used to fine tune a station or for manual scanning)

After selecting the desired AM or FM wave band, press the function control button ✱ .

Press automatic station seeker bar AUTOMATIC (up or down) and hold. The frequency will increase or decrease respectively in increments of 0.1 MHz for FM or 1.0 KHz for AM. Release the button when the desired station is tuned in.

Unless the automatic station seeker bar AUTOMATIC is activated within 8 seconds after pressing the function control button ✱, the manual tuning will automatically be deactivated.

Safety Note

To avoid distraction from the vehicle's operation and the road, it is recommended that the driver NOT perform any manual tuning operations while the vehicle is in motion. Use the automatic station search operation or preset stations instead.

Push button tuning

Six FM stations and four AM stations can be stored in memory and recalled by pressing the appropriate buttons marked 1 F through 6 F for FM or 7A through 0A for AM stations.

To store stations in memory

Any FM station frequency indicated on the digital display can be stored on any button marked 1 F through 6 F by depressing the button desired and holding it until the display has changed from the "old" setting to a "blank" and then to the new frequency to be stored.

Showing the "old" setting first allows for reconsideration of the decision to store. If it is desirable to leave the "old" frequency in memory rather than exchanging it with the "new" one, quickly release the button. The "old" frequency will remain in memory.

Any AM station can be stored similarly on any button marked 7A through 0A.

Stereo reception

The stereo indicator symbol STEREO lights up if a stereo program is received.

The radio is equipped with an automatic stereo/mono switch that electronically switches to mono for clear reception if a weak signal is received. A special circuit provides for a smooth change-over rather than a hard sudden switching, thereby reducing noise and interference.

The stereo indicator will remain lit even if the receiver has changed to the mono mode and will turn off at an antenna signal considered insufficient to provide acceptable reception quality.

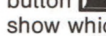
Important! Although FM is normally static free, reception can be limited by geographic and atmospheric conditions, station strength and distance from transmitter. Buildings or other obstructions can cause momentary static, flutter or station swapping. If good reception cannot be obtained, tune to a stronger station.

Tape Cassette playback

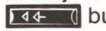
It is recommended to use only good quality cassettes with a playback time of not more than 60 to 90 minutes (C 60) or (C 90).

To start playback, insert a cassette (tape side first, side "I" or "A" facing up) through the cassette door. Push the cassette in until it is locked in its playing position.

When the end of one playing side is reached, the unit switches automatically to reverse for playing the second track.

The tape track can be selected by depressing the cassette track switch button  . The built-in indicators show which track of the cassette the unit is playing back.

To stop playback, press the eject button  . The unit will automatically eject the cassette and switch to radio reception.

For fast tape rewind press the fast rewind button  . The button will lock into position until the end of the tape is reached or until the eject  or fast forward  button is activated.

Accordingly, for fast forward of the tape, press the fast forward button ⏩.

When the radio is turned off by pressing the "OFF" side of the ON OFF switch or by turning the steering lock key to the off, the cassette will automatically be ejected.

Care and maintenance

To avoid deterioration of the tone quality, occasionally clean the tape head with the special cleaner supplied in your glove compartment or available through your dealer.

To set clock

Turn steering lock key to position "1" or "2".

Briefly press recessed time set button ⏱ by using a pencil or ballpoint pen.

Enter the time at which you want to start the clock by sequentially pressing four of the top row push buttons 1F through 0A. The time entered will be displayed.

Note: This is a 24 hour clock and time must be entered in all four digits. A 24 hour clock counts time from midnight to midnight, that is 24 hours. A time of 4:28 PM is indicated by this clock as 16:28 hours (12 plus 4:28 hours).

Example 1: To enter 7:30 AM, press buttons 0A , 7A , 3F , 0A

Example 2: To enter 4:28 PM, press buttons 1F , 6F , 2F , 8A

The time entered is now stored. To start the clock in accordance with a time signal or other time reference, again briefly press the recessed time set button ⏱.

A colon sign will appear between the second and third digits 07:30, to indicate that the clock is activated. With the radio switched off, the time will be indicated on the digital display. When the radio is switched on, the digital display will indicate the frequency which the radio is tuned to.

To display time

Briefly press the call button h. The time will be displayed for a few seconds.

To use the timer T

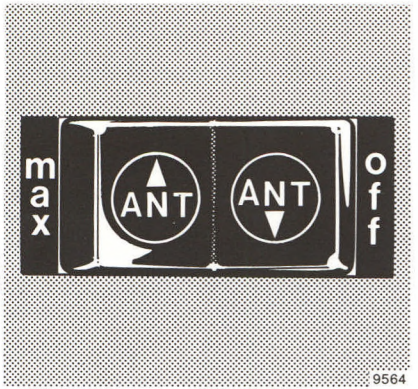
By using the timer T, the radio can be automatically turned on at a preset time. In order to set the timer T, the steering lock key must be in position "1" or "2". The timer T can only turn the radio on with the steering lock key in position "1" or "2".

Setting the timer

1. Press button T.
2. Enter the time for automatic turn-on by sequentially pressing four of the top row push buttons 1F through 0A for the 24-hour time desired.
3. Press button ✱ to activate the timer. Activation of the timer is indicated by a colon between the second and third digits of the time.

Note: To activate this function each day, press buttons T and ✱ with the ignition key in position "1" or "2". The radio will then turn on at the preset time.

Whenever you wish to verify the time at which the timer is set, press button T. The time will be indicated in the digital display. After a few seconds, the display will switch back to the station frequency. To change the timer to a new setting, repeat steps 1 through 3.



Automatic Antenna

The antenna switch can be actuated with the radio switched on and the key in steering lock positions "1" or "2".

- If the antenna switch is in the center position, the antenna extends automatically to medium height,
- if the antenna switch is engaged in the "max." position, the antenna extends fully,
- if the antenna switch is engaged in the "off" position, the antenna will not extend or will retract completely.

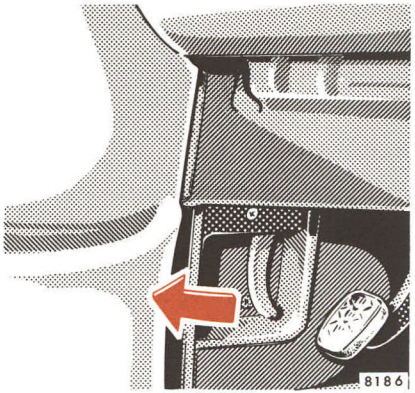
The height of the antenna can be adjusted to any intermediate position by actuating the antenna switch:

- If the antenna switch is in the center position, the antenna will extend to medium height. The antenna can be further extended or retracted to any height by rocking the switch (not engaging it).
- If the antenna is to be retracted, e. g. for playing cassettes, engage switch in "off" position.

When the key is turned to steering lock position "0" or the radio is turned off, the antenna will retract completely.

Driving

Hood

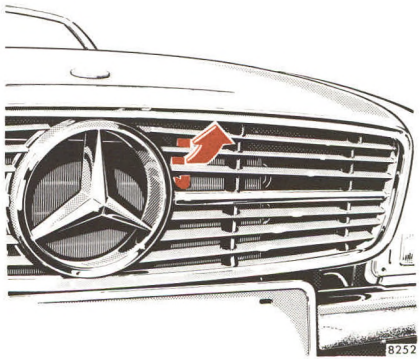


Pull lever below L-H side of instrument panel to unlock the hood. The hood opens to the safety catch stop. Pull lever in radiator grille as indicated by the arrow and lift hood (windshield wiper arms must not be folded out).

To close, press down hood firmly.

Warning!

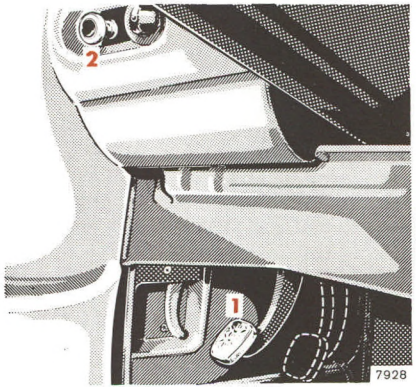
Stay clear of moving parts when hood is open and the engine is running.



The engine is equipped with a transistorized ignition system. Because of the high voltage it is highly dangerous to touch any components (ignition coil, distributor, spark plug sockets, ignition cables, diagnostic socket) of the ignition system

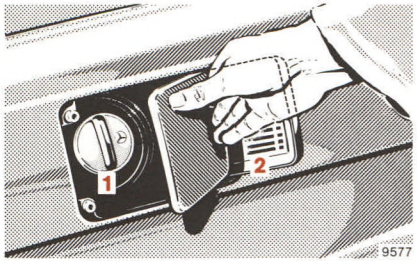
- if the ignition is "on" and the engine reved manually
- while starting the engine
- with the engine running.

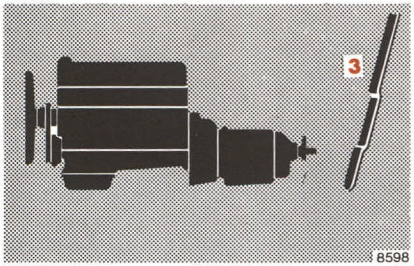
Parking Brake

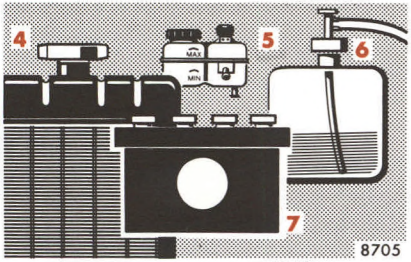


Depress parking brake pedal (1). When the steering lock key is in position "2", the brake warning lamp in the instrument cluster comes on.

To release, pull release button (2) on the instrument panel. The parking brake releases in one rapid movement. The parking brake warning lamp in the instrument cluster must go out.







1	**Fuel Supply**	Use unleaded gasoline, for octane rating see "Capacities" and last page.
2	**Tire Pressure**	For tire pressure table refer to fuel filler flap or last page. Check at least every other week. For more details see "Wheels, Tires, Changing Wheels".
3	**Oil/Fluid Level: Engine, Automatic Transmission**	See "Checking Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc.", "Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc." and last page.
4	**Coolant Level**	See "Checking Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc.", "Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc." and last page.
5	**Brake Fluid**	When the minimum mark on the reservoir is reached, have the system checked (brake lining thickness, leaks).
6	**Windshield Washer**	Replenish with windshield washer solvent (container is in the engine compartment). Add MB auto shampoo, see page 60.
7	**Battery**	Replenish with distilled water only. See "Electrical System".
	Vehicle Lighting	Check for function and cleanliness.

Catalytic Converter Cautions

Your MERCEDES-BENZ is equipped with monolithic catalytic converters, an important element in conjunction with the O_2-sensor to achieve substantial control of the pollutants in the exhaust emissions. Keep your vehicle in proper operating condition by following our recommended maintenance instructions as outlined in your maintenance booklet.

Should any noticeable irregularities in the engine operation occur, excessive unburned fuel may reach the converter causing it to overheat. For the same reason we caution against refueling with leaded gasoline.

As with any vehicle, do not idle, park or operate this vehicle in areas where combustible materials such as grass, hay or leaves can come into contact with a hot exhaust system, as these materials could be ignited.

Engage parking brake and move the gear selector lever in either "P" or "N" position before starting the engine.

Turn key in steering lock to position "2". The charge indicator lamp must come on.

Cold Engine

Turn key in steering lock clockwise to the stop. Do not depress accelerator. Release key only when the engine is firing regularly.

At ambient temperatures of less than −18° C/0° F, depress accelerator three times prior to starting.

Hot Engine

Turn key in steering lock clockwise to the stop. Do not depress accelerator. If the engine has not fired after approx. 4 seconds, depress accelerator and continue cranking until the engine is firing regularly. Release key and back off accelerator.

Turning off

Turn the key in the steering lock to position "0" and only remove the key when the vehicle is at standstill.

If the coolant temperature is very high (e. g. after hard driving on mountain roads), do not shut off the engine immediately, allow it to run for 1–2 minutes at increased idle speed.

Hints

Due to the installed starter non-repeat unit, the key in the steering lock must be returned to "0" position before a new starting attempt is made.

Observe the oil pressure gauge immediately after starting the engine. In a very cold engine the oil pressure will only rise slowly, some time after the engine has started.

Do not speed up the engine before pressure is registered on the pressure gauge.

The charge indicator lamp must go out as soon as the engine has started.

Should too much fuel have entered the engine due to several unsuccessful starting attempts and the engine will no longer fire, depress the accelerator while starting. Back off the accelerator only when the engine is firing regularly.

In areas where temperatures frequently drop below −25° C/−13° F, we recommend that a block heater is installed. Every MERCEDES-BENZ dealer will advise you on this subject.

The automatic transmission simplifies the handling of the vehicle. The individual gears are shifted automatically dependent upon selector lever position, vehicle speed and accelerator position.

Hints

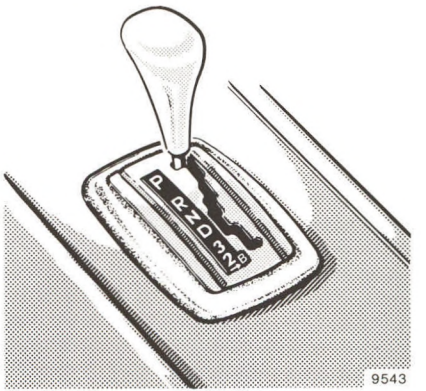
When parking the vehicle or if working on the vehicle with the engine running, depress parking brake pedal and move selector lever to position "P".

Warning!

Keep driver's foot area clear at all times. Objects stored in this area may cause impairment of pedal movement.

Driving

Shift selector lever to the desired driving position only when the engine is idling and the service brake is applied. Do not release the brake until ready to drive. The vehicle may otherwise start creeping when the selector lever is in a driving position.



Test service brake after driving off.

Warm up the engine smoothly. Do not place full load on the engine until the operating temperature has been reached.

When taking off on a slippery surface, do not allow one driving wheel to spin for an extended period.

Accelerator position

Partial throttle = early upshifting = normal acceleration

Full throttle = later upshifting = maximum acceleration

Depressing the accelerator beyond full throttle to kickdown position means downshifting to the next lower gear and thus maximum acceleration. If you ease up on the accelerator after having attained the desired speed, the transmission will shift up again.

Selector Lever Positions

The automatic gear shifting process can be adapted to specific operating conditions by means of the selector lever.

"P" Parking lock.
The parking lock is an additional safeguard when parking the vehicle. Engage only with the car stopped.

"R" Reverse gear.
Shift reverse gear only with the car stopped.

"N" Neutral.
No power is transmitted from the engine to the rear axle. When the brakes are released, the vehicle can be moved freely (pushed, towed or tow-started). Do not engage "N" when driving except when the vehicle is in danger of skidding (e. g. on icy roads, see page 55).

"D" Drive.
All forward gears are available. The vehicle starts off in 1st gear. Position "D" affords optimum driving characteristics under all normal operating conditions.

"3" Upshift to 3rd gear only.
OK for medium range up or downgrades.

"2" Upshift to 2nd gear only. For driving in mountainous regions. Since transmission will not shift up further, this gear selection will make use of the engine's braking power.

"B" In this position, the engine's braking effect is utilized while descending steep or lengthy downgrades, especially with a trailer. Use this position only below 60 km/h/40 mph.

Important!

Do not exceed the speed limits for individual gear selections, which are correspondingly indicated by marks on the speedometer.

Do not attempt downshifting to a lower gear unless the speedometer needle is below the speed-limit-mark of that particular gear range. Over-revving could result in damage to the engine.

On slippery road surfaces, it is not recommended to downshift to obtain braking action.

Trailer Operation

When proceeding on a hill, do not allow the engine RPM to drop off too low. Shift the gear selector well in advance, depending on the degree of incline or decline, to position "3" or "2".

Stopping

When stopping, e. g. at a traffic light, hold vehicle with service brake while leaving the transmission engaged; do not hold vehicle by accelerating engine. This will help to avoid unnecessary heat-buildup in transmission.
For longer stops with the engine idling, shift into "N" or "P".

Maneuvering

To maneuver in tight areas e. g. when pulling into a parking space, control the car speed by gradually releasing the service brake. Accelerate gently and do not pump the accelerator. To rock a car out of soft ground (mud or snow), alternately shift from forward to reverse, while applying partial throttle.

Power assistance:

When the engine is not running, both the service brake and the steering are without power assistance. Under these circumstances, a much greater effort is necessary to steer or stop the vehicle.

Tires:

Do not allow your tires to wear down too far. With less than approx. 3 mm/⅛ in of tread, the antiskid properties on a wet road are sharply reduced.

Depending upon the weather and/or road pavement, the traction varies widely.

Specified tire pressures must be maintained. This applies particularly if the tires are subjected to high loads (e. g. high speeds, heavy loads, high ambient temperatures).

Aquaplaning:

Depending on the depth of the water layer on the road, aquaplaning may occur, even at low speeds. Avoid track grooves in the road and apply brakes cautiously in the rain.

Tire friction:

A given speed at which a vehicle driven on dry roads can still be fully controlled must be reduced when the same vehicle is to be driven safely on a wet or icy road.

You should pay particular attention to the condition of the road as soon as the prevailing temperatures fall close to the freezing point.

If ice has formed on the road, tire traction will be substantially reduced. Under such weather conditions, drive, steer and brake particularly carefully.

We recommend M+S radial-ply tires for the cold season. On packed snow, they can reduce your stopping distance as compared with summer tires. Stopping distance, however, is nevertheless considerably greater than when the road is wet or dry.

Brakes:

When driving down long and steep declines, relieve the brakes by shifting into "B", "3" or "2". This prevents overheating of the brakes and reduces brake pad wear.

After hard braking it is advisable to drive on for some time so the air stream will cool down the brakes faster.

When driving in heavy rain for some time without applying the brakes, the first braking action may be somewhat reduced and increased pedal pressure may be necessary. For this reason, stay further away from vehicle in front.

The condition of the parking brake system is checked each time the car is in the shop for maintenance.

Between maintenance checks it is a good practice to apply the parking brake once or twice while driving at approximately 50 km/h/ 30 mph on a dry road. Apply brake lightly until a slight drag on the wheels is felt. Keep applying brakes for about 10 seconds while pulling release knob out, then release parking brake completely. This practice will keep the parking brake at maximum efficiency.

Warning!

The stop lamps will not come on when applying the parking brake only. Apply parking brake only when road behind vehicle is clear of traffic.

All checks and maintenance work on the brake system should be carried out by a MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

If the parking brake is released and the brake warning lamp in the instrument cluster stays on, the brake fluid level in the reservoir is too low.

Brake pad wear or a leak in the system may be the reason for low brake fluid in the reservoir.

Have the brake system inspected at an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer without delay.

Install only brake pads recommended by us. If other than recommended brake pads are installed, the braking properties of the vehicle can be affected to an extent that the safety is substantially impaired.

Brake Pad Wear Indicator Lamp

The brake pad wear indicator lamp in the instrument cluster comes on when the key in the steering lock is turned to position "2" and it must go out when the engine is running. If the indicator lamp lights up during braking, this shows that the front wheel brake pads are worn.

Have brake system checked at an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer as soon as possible.

Brake Fluid

Brake fluid should be changed once a year, preferably in spring.

Only use brake fluid recommended by us. For further information, refer to "Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc.".

The low brake fluid indicator lamp will come on if insufficient brake fluid is in the reservoir. (The key must be in steering lock position "2", and the parking brake released.)

When the minimum mark on the reservoir is reached, have the system checked (brake lining thickness, leaks).

ABS-Brake System (Anti-Lock Brake System)

You can tell if your vehicle is equipped with an ABS by the yellow indicator lamp with the letters "ANTILOCK" in the instrument cluster (see page 10).

The ABS prevents the wheels from locking up above a speed of approx. 3 km/h/2 mph independent of road surface conditions. It is necessary, however, that a speed of approx. 8 km/h/5 mph has been exceeded at least once after start-up.

At the instant one of the wheels is about to lock up, you will notice a slight vibration in the brake pedal and the vehicle, indicating that the ABS is enhancing the driver's ability to control the vehicle by preventing the wheels from locking.

This also indicates that the ABS is in the regulating mode. On slippery road surfaces, the ABS will already respond with a slight brake pedal pressure. The pulsating brake pedal can be an indication of hazardous road conditions, and you may want to take extra care driving.

Warning!

Always keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you. Only a save, attentive and skillful driver can prevent accidents. The ABS cannot prevent accidents including those resulting from excessive speed in turns or following a vehicle too closely.

The ABS indicator lamp in the instrument cluster comes on with the key in steering lock position "2" and should go out with the engine running.

If the charging voltage falls below 10 volts, the indicator lamp comes on and the ABS is switched off. When the voltage is above this value again, the indicator lamp should go out and the ABS will be operational.

If the ABS indicator lamp does not go out, it indicates that the ABS has detected a malfunction and has switched off. In this case, the brake system functions in the usual manner, but without anti-lock assistance. We recommend that you visit an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer as soon as possible to have the system checked.

Charge Indicator Lamp

Should the charge indicator lamp fail to come on prior to starting when the key is in steering lock position "2" or should it fail to go out after starting or during operation, this indicates a fault which must be repaired at an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer as soon as possible.

Fuel Reserve Warning Lamp

The fuel reserve warning lamp will come on when the key in the steering lock is turned to position "2", and will go out after the engine is running.

If the warning lamp stays on after the engine starts, or comes on while driving, it indicates that the fuel level is down to the reserve quantity.

Outside Temperature Indicator

The temperature sensor is attached to the front bumper behind the license plate base plate. Due to its location, the sensor can be affected by road or engine heat during idling or slow driving. This means that the accuracy of the displayed temperature can only be verified by comparison to a thermometer located next to the sensor, not by comparison to external displays (i. e., bank signs, etc.).

Oil Pressure Gauge

The oil pressure at idle speed may drop to 0.3 bar/4.4 psi if the engine is at operating temperature. This will not jeopardize its operational reliability. Pressure must, however, rise immediately upon acceleration.

The oil pressure gauge will not provide early warning of low oil level. Therefore, check oil level at regular intervals with the dipstick.

Coolant Temperature Gauge

If the antifreeze mixture is good to −30° C/−22° F, the boiling point of the coolant in the pressurized cooling system of your vehicle is approx. 125° C/257° F (see also "Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc.").

During severe operating conditions and stop-and-go city traffic the coolant temperature must not rise above the red marking.

Engine Oil Consumption

Engine oil consumption can only be determined after a certain mileage has been covered. During the break-in period, higher oil consumption may be noticed and is normal.

Safe Driving

Emission Control

Certain systems of the engine serve to keep the toxic components of the exhaust gases within permissible limits required by law. (Nevertheless, we urgently advise you not to let the engine run in a closed garage.) These systems, of course, will function properly only when maintained strictly according to factory specifications. Any adjustments on the engine should, therefore, be carried out only by qualified MERCEDES-BENZ technicians. The adjustments of the engine should not be altered in any way. Moreover, the specified service and maintenance jobs must be carried out regularly according to MERCEDES-BENZ servicing requirements. For details refer to the Maintenance Booklet.

The First 1500 km/1000 Miles

The more cautiously you treat your engine during the break-in period, the more satisfied you will be with its performance later on. Therefore, drive your vehicle during the first 1500 km/1000 miles at moderate vehicle and engine speeds.

During this period, avoid heavy loads (full throttle driving) and high RPMs (no more than ⅔ of maximum permissible speed in each gear).

Avoid accelerating by kickdown. It is not recommended to brake the vehicle by manually shifting to a lower gear. We recommend to select positions "3" or "2" only at moderate speeds (for hill driving).

After 1500 km/1000 miles speeds may gradually be increased to the permissible maximum.

Driving Economically

Economical Driving Indicator (ECONOMY)

The indicator shows the fuel consumption tendency during various driving modes.

High fuel consumption is indicated if the pointer moves into the red area; economical driving is indicated when it is in the black area. The indications should only be compared within the same gear.

Do not compare fuel consumption readings between different gears. The following rule applies: If you drive at equal speeds, the fuel consumption is lower in the higher gear, although in this gear the pointer indicates mostly more in the red area.

Winter Driving

Have your car winterized at an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer before the onset of winter.

- Engine oil change: If "year-round" multigrade engine oil is not used, be sure to use an SAE grade based on ambient temperature. For recommended engine oil viscosities refer to "Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc." and last page.
- Anticorrosion/antifreeze in the coolant: Check anticorrosion/antifreeze protection periodically. For capacity refer to "Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc.".
- Additive in the windshield washer system: Add windshield washer solvent to the water in the windshield washer system.
- Test battery: Battery capacity drops with decreasing ambient temperature. A well charged battery ensures that the engine can always be started, even at low ambient temperatures.
- Tires: We recommend M + S radial tires on all wheels for the winter season. Observe permissible maximum speed for M + S radial tires and the legal speed limit.

Hints for Driving

The most important rule for slippery or icy roads is to drive sensibly and to avoid abrupt acceleration, braking and steering action. Do not use the cruise control system under such conditions.

When the vehicle is in danger of skidding, move selector lever to position "N". Try to keep the vehicle under control by means of corrective steering action.

Provided the traffic conditions will allow, only brake in a way that the wheels are locked for no more than fractions of a second as otherwise the steerability of the vehicle is lost.

Road salts and chemicals can adversely affect braking efficiency. Increased pedal force may become necessary to produce the normal brake effect. We therefore recommend depressing the brake pedal repeatedly when travelling on salt-strewn roads at length. This can bring road salt impaired braking efficiency back to normal. A prerequisite is, however, that this is possible without endangering other drivers on the road.

If the vehicle is parked after being driven on salt treated roads, the braking efficiency should be tested as soon as possible after driving is resumed while adhering to the safety requirements.

Tire Chains

Use only tire chains that are tested and recommended by us. Any authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer will be glad to advise you on this subject.

Chains should only be used on the rear wheels. Adhere to the manufacturer's mounting instructions.

After driving a short distance retighten the mounted chains.

Tire chains should only be driven on snow at speeds not to exceed 50 km/h/30 mph. Remove chains as soon as possible when driving on roads without snow.

Traveling Abroad

Abroad, there is a widely-spread MERCEDES-BENZ service network at your disposal. If you travel into areas which are not listed in the index of your dealer directory, you should request pertinent information from your dealer.

Vehicle Care

A maintenance booklet is delivered with your car listing all the maintenance jobs that must be carried out after the following mileages:

Routine Maintenance

Inspection at
1300–1600 km/800–1000 miles
Lubrication Service every
12 000 km/7500 miles
Maintenance Service every
24 000 km/15 000 miles
Additional Work every
48 000 km/30 000 miles

In the case of low mileage operation, the Maintenance Service must be carried out at least once every 2 years.

Engine Oil and Filter Change

Required every 12 000 km/ 7500 miles, or at least once a year when using year-round multigrade oil; otherwise at least twice a year (spring and fall).

For engine oil recommendations, see page 82.

Severe Operating Conditions

In the case of severe operating conditions or heavy use mainly in city traffic or over short distances, frequent mountain driving, poor roads, dusty and muddy conditions, trailer operation, hard and sporty driving etc., it may be necessary to carry out maintenance work at shorter than normal intervals, as follows:

Engine: Oil change with filter change every 6000 km/3750 miles
Automatic transmission: Fluid change without filter change every 24 000 km/15 000 miles
Tires: Inspect
Air cleaner: Clean or replace element

Special Maintenance Measures

Brake fluid should be replaced annually, preferably in the spring. It is recommended to use only brake fluid approved by MERCEDES-BENZ.

The coolant should be checked for sufficient protection before the start of and during the cold season. Have the coolant (water/anticorrosion/antifreeze mixture) replaced at least every three years (see "Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc.").

Maintenance Vouchers

Your authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer will certify in the maintenance booklet that all lubrication and maintenance services have been carried out at the correct intervals.

Stickers to remind you when the next lubrication service or maintenance service is due, or when the brake fluid must be changed, are provided in the middle of the maintenance booklet.
Sticker attaching points
In the frame of the driver's door: Lubrication service and maintenance service
In the engine compartment: Brake fluid change.

Spare Parts Service

All MERCEDES-BENZ dealers maintain a stock of original spare parts required for maintenance and repair work. In addition, strategically located parts distribution centers provide quick and reliable parts service. More than 200 000 different spare parts, even for older models, are available.

MERCEDES-BENZ original spare parts are subjected to most severe quality inspections. Each part has been specifically developed, manufactured or selected for and adapted to MERCEDES-BENZ vehicles.

Therefore, MERCEDES-BENZ original spare parts should be installed.

Cleaning and Care of the Vehicle

In operation, your vehicle is subjected to a great amount of varying external influences which, if gone unchecked, can attack the paintwork as well as the underbody and cause lasting damage.

Such damage is caused not only by extreme and varying climatic conditions, but also by air pollution, road salt, tar, gravel and stone chipping. Grease and oil, fuel, coolant, brake fluid, bird droppings, tree resins, etc. should be immediately removed to avoid paint damage. Frequent washing, however, reduces and/or eliminates the aggressiveness and potency of the above adverse influences.

More frequent washings are necessary to deal with unfavorable conditions; for example, near the ocean, in industrial areas (smoke, exhaust emissions), or during winter operation.

You should check over your vehicle from time to time for stone chipping or other damage. Any damage should be repaired as soon as possible to prevent the start of corrosion.

In doing so, do not neglect the underside of the car. A prerequisite for a thorough check is a washing of the underbody followed by a thorough inspection. Damaged areas need to be re-undercoated.

Your vehicle has been treated at the factory with a wax-base rustproofing in the body cavities which will last for the lifetime of the vehicle. Post-production treatment is neither necessary nor recommended by MERCEDES-BENZ because of the possibility of incompatibility between materials used in the production process and others applied later.

After every engine cleaning you should have the engine compartment re-rustproofed. Before rustproofing, all control linkage bushings have to be lubricated with hydraulic oil (check with your local MERCEDES-BENZ dealership for recommended brands).

We have selected car-care products and compiled recommendations which are specially matched to our vehicles and which always

reflect the newest in technological standing. You can obtain MB car-care products at every MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

Scratches, corrosive deposits, corrosion or damage due to negligent or incorrect care cannot always be removed with the car-care products recommended here. In such cases it is best to seek aid at your authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

The following topics deal with the cleaning and care of your vehicle and give important "how-to" information as well as references to recommended MB car-care products.

Car Washing

Before washing your vehicle, remove insect residues. The car should not be washed in the sun. Use only a mild car wash detergent, such as MB auto shampoo.

Thoroughly spray the car with a diffused jet of water. Direct only a very weak spray towards the ventilation intake. Use plenty of water and rinse the sponge and chamois frequently. Rinse with clear water and thoroughly wipe dry with a chamois.

If the vehicle has been run through an automatic car wash – in particular one of the older installations – rewipe the recessed sections provided in the tail lamps (for improved prevention of soiling) if necessary. No solvents (fuels, thinners etc.) must be used.

In the winter, thoroughly remove all traces of road salt as soon as possible.

When washing the car underbody, do not forget to clean the inner sides of the wheels.

Tar Stains

Quickly remove tar stains before they dry and become more difficult to remove.

Window Cleaning, Wiper Blades

Use a window cleaning solution on very dirty or oil-stained windows.

Clean windshield wiper blades with a clean cloth and detergent solution. Replace blades at least once or twice a year. Use only mild detergent on the soft top windows.

To assist with the removal of accomulated road film on the windshield and improve wiping ability, a cap of MB auto shampoo can be added to the 5 liter container of washer solvent.

Plastic Parts, Headliner, Rubber Parts and MB-Tex Upholstery Covers

Do not use oil or wax on these parts.

Using aftermarket seat covers or wearing clothing that have the tendency to give off coloring (e. g. when wet, etc.) may cause the upholstery (velour for example) to become permanently discolored. By lining the seats with a proper intermediate cover, contact-discoloration will be prevented.

Seat Belts

The webbing must not be treated with chemical cleaning agents. Use only clear, lukewarm water and soap. Do not dry the webbing at temperatures above 80° C/176° F or in direct sunlight. Never bleach or re-dye the webbing.

Steering Wheel, Instrument Cluster and Selector Lever

Use a gentle dish-washing detergent or mild detergent for delicate fabrics as a washing solution. Wipe with a cloth moistened in lukewarm solution. Do not use scouring agents.

Upholstery

Leather: Wipe leather upholstery with a damp cloth and dry thoroughly. Exercise particular care when cleaning perforated leather as its underside should not become wet.

Paintwork

Do not apply wax if your car is parked in the sun or if the hood is still hot. For maximum protection, the paintwork should be waxed approximately once every three months. Use the appropriate MERCEDES-BENZ Touch-Up Stick for quick and provisional repairs of minor paint damage.

Light Alloy Wheels

If possible, clean wheels once a week with lukewarm water and autoshampoo (or MB Cleaner/Preserver). Use an ample supply of water.

To remove stubborn marks, use polish or paint cleaner and apply with buffing cloth or a soft cloth.

Ornamental Moldings (Chrome-Plated, Aluminium)

For regular cleaning and care of very dirty chrome-plated parts, use a chrome cleaner.

Soft Top

Stow only a completely dry top in the storage compartment. If the top is kept in the storage compartment for a lengthy period, unfold and air it well with the windows down from time to time.

Remove bird droppings immediately. The organic acid damages the material and causes the top to leak.

In general, regular spraying or cleansing with clear water will do. Wash top only when heavily soiled, not every time the car is washed.

Caution! Never use any gasoline, thinner, tar and stain removers or similar organic solvents to clean top or rear window.

Dry cleaning:

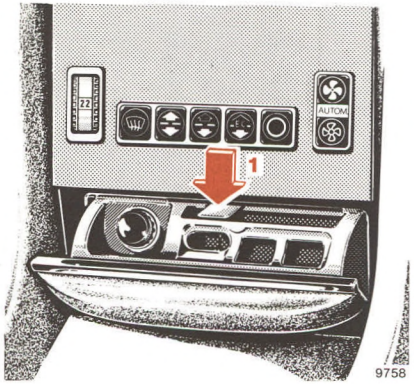
Brush top (always from front to rear) with a soft-bristled brush.

Wet cleaning:

Brush the dry top. Wash with a mild detergent and an ample supply of lukewarm water by wiping with a soft-bristled brush or a sponge from front to rear. Then cleanse thoroughly with clear water.

If only parts of the top have been washed, wet the entire top at the end of the proceedings and allow the unfolded and tightened top to air-dry. Wipe the rear window with a cloth soaked with a detergent and rub dry. Do not use sharp-edged instruments for the removal of ice and snow.

Practical Hints



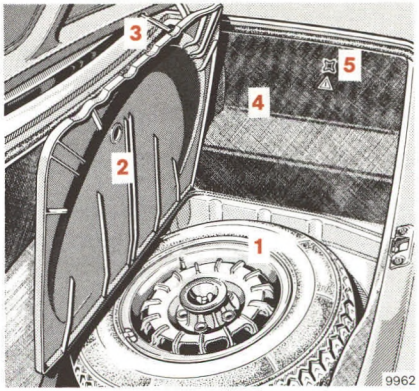
Ash tray

Removal of ash tray:
Pull out ash tray up to the stop.
Depress center locking spring (1) and remove ash tray.

To install ash tray:
Position ash tray squarely and push in.

Luggage or Ski Racks

We recommend the use of drip rail mounted ski and roof racks. This type of rack does not require additional supports (suction cups or legs). Such supports may lead to marring of the paint or even denting of the roof if excessive weight is placed on the rack. Your MERCEDES-BENZ dealer can give further advice.

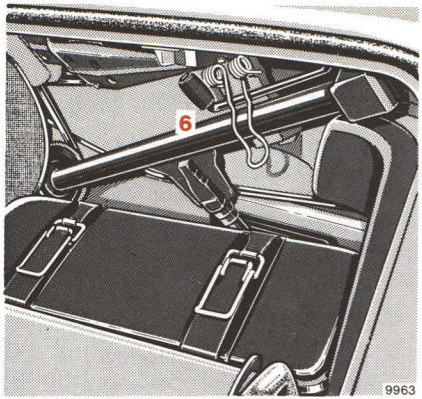


Spare Wheel, Jack, Vehicle Tool Kit

The spare wheel (1) is stored in a compartment below a hinged cover (2) in the trunk floor.

To raise cover, roll back the floor mat and engage holding strap (3) in the trunk lid.

Open cover (4) by turning latch (5) fully to the left.



The jack (6) and tool kit are located behind cover (4).

Warning!

Use the jack only to lift the vehicle during a tire change. Never get beneath the vehicle while it is supported only by the jack. Use jack stands to work under the car.

Wheels, Tires

Replace wheels or tires with the same designation, manufacturer and type as shown on the original part.

See any authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer for information on tested and recommended wheels and tires for summer and winter operation. They can also offer more advice concerning tire service and purchase.

Front tires should be replaced in sets. If possible, the spare tire should be used on the rear wheels. We recommend that you break in new tires for approx. 100 km/ 60 miles at moderate speed.

After a wheel change it is imperative that the wheel mounting bolts be retightened after approx. 800 km/500 miles. On new vehicles retightening is carried out in the course of the 1st inspection. Retightening is also necessary when new wheels are fitted at a later date, e. g. when the spare wheel is used for the first time or when a new set of wheels with M + S tires is fitted.

For tire specifications, refer to "Technical Data".

Rotating wheels:

The wheels can be rotated according to the degree of tire wear while retaining the same sense of rotation. Rotating, however, should be carried out before the characteristic tire wear pattern (shoulder wear on front wheels and tread center wear on rear wheels) becomes visible at a mileage of 5000–10 000 km/ 3000–6000 miles as otherwise the driving properties deteriorate.

Slowly leaking air (e. g. due to a nail in the tire) may cause damage to the tire such as tread separation. Regular tire pressure checks at intervals of no more than 14 days are therefore essential. For the tire pressure checks, keep in mind that hot tires show higher pressure than cold tires. See tire pressure chart on last page.

Should the tire pressure decrease constantly, check whether foreign objects have penetrated the tire or if the rim or valve allows air to leak.

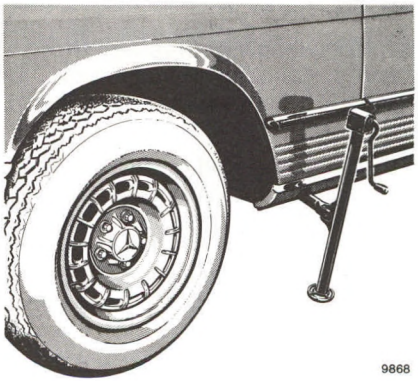
Thoroughly clean the inner side of the wheels any time you rotate the wheels or wash the vehicle's underside.

Dented or bent rims cause tire pressure loss and damage to the tire beads. For this reason, check rims for damage at regular intervals.

The rim flanges must be checked for wear before a tire is mounted. Remove burrs, if there are any.

Changing Wheels

1. Set parking brake.
2. Move selector lever to position "P".
3. Prevent vehicle from rolling away by blocking wheels with wheel chocks: When changing a wheel on a hill, place chocks behind each wheel of the axle opposite to the axle to be worked on; on a level road, place one chock in front and one behind of the wheel that is diagonally opposite to the wheel being changed.


9868

4. Using the combination wrench, loosen but do not yet remove the wheel bolts.
5. Clean jack supporting tube, if necessary. (Jack tubes are behind the front wheel housings and in front of the rear wheel housings.)
6. Insert jack arm fully into the tube hole up to the stop. Position the jack so that it will always be vertical as seen from the side, even on inclines. Jack up the vehicle until the wheel is clear off the ground.
7. Then unscrew wheel bolts completely. Keep bolt threads protected from dirt and sand. While removing last bolt, hold wheel against axle to avoid paint damage on rim.
8. Remove wheel.
9. Adjust the jack to allow the wheel to be slipped on without being lifted.
10. Slip on spare wheel and press against wheel mounting flange. Screw in wheel bolts.

    To avoid paint damage, place wheel flat against hub and hold it there while installing first wheel bolt.
11. Lower car and remove jack. Tighten the five bolts evenly by tightening every other bolt until all the bolts are tight. Observe a tightening torque of 110 Nm/ 80 lb-ft.
12. Correct tire pressure.

Tire Inflation Pressure

A table (see fuel filler flap or last page) lists the tire inflation pressures specified for summer and winter tires as well as for the varying operating conditions.

Important!

Tire pressure differs by approx. 0.1 bar/1.5 psi per 10° C/18° F of air temperature change. Keep this in mind when checking tire pressure inside a garage – especially in the winter.

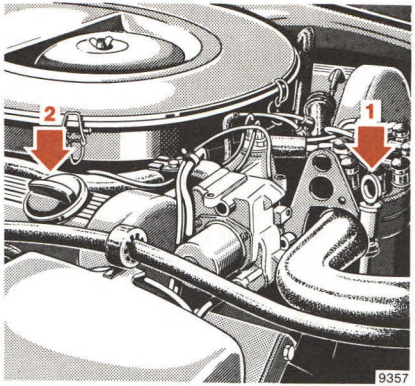
Example:

Room temperature = approx. +20° C/+68° F

Ambient temperature = approx. 0° C/+32° F

Adjusted air pressure = specified air pressure +0.2 bar/3 psi.

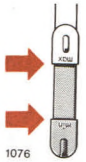
Tire temperature and pressure increase with the vehicle speed. Tire pressure should therefore only be corrected on cold tires. Correct tire pressure in hot tires only if pressure has dropped below the data listed in the table and the respective operating conditions are taken into consideration.



Engine Oil Level Check

1 Dipstick
2 Oil filler cap

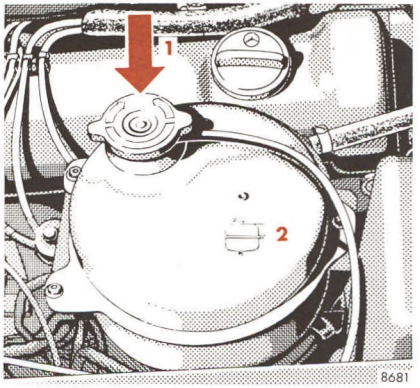
Check engine oil level regularly or after each fuel fill-up, with the engine off and at operating temperature (engine must be at operating temperature for some time).



The vehicle should be parked on level ground and the oil level must be somewhere between the lower and the upper mark on dipstick (1); do not add in excess of the upper mark.

Wipe dipstick before any oil level measurement. To determine the oil level, check both sides of the dipstick. Always determine an accurate oil level by the straight horizontal marking formed by the oil on one side of the dipstick.

For viscosity and capacity, see "Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc." and last page.



1 Coolant filler cap
2 Marking for coolant level

Checking Coolant Level

The coolant reservoir with filler neck is arranged away from the radiator. To add coolant, the car must be on level ground.

Warning!

Do not remove pressure cap on coolant reservoir if engine temperature is above 90° C/194° F. Allow engine to cool down before removing cap. The coolant reservoir contains hot water and is under pressure.

Using a rag, turn cap to first notch to relieve excess pressure. If opened immediately, hot scalding fluid and steam will be blown out under pressure.

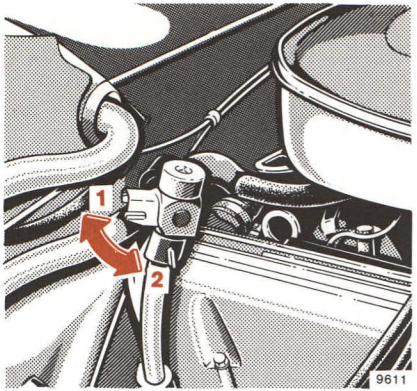
If a small amount of coolant has to be added (due to evaporation of water), plain water can be used.

If a larger quantity of coolant has to be added, a 50/50 mixture of water and anticorrosion/antifreeze should be used:

The coolant level must reach:

- the mark indicated on the reservoir when the coolant is cold
- approximately 2 cm/0.8 in higher when the coolant is hot

The drain plugs are situated on the R-H and L-H engine side and on the radiator bottom.



Automatic Transmission Fluid Level

At regular intervals and prior to a long trip, check automatic transmission fluid level and engine oil level.

Check transmission fluid level with the engine idling, parking brake engaged and selector lever in position "P". The vehicle must be parked on level ground. Prior to the check, allow engine to idle for approx. 1 to 2 minutes.

Measure fluid level with the dipstick completely inserted and the locking lever released (1).

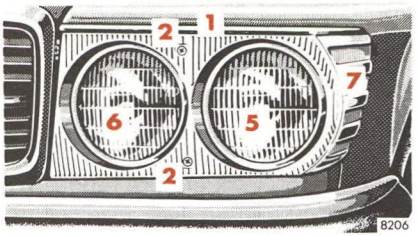
Extreme cleanliness must be observed! To wipe the dipstick, use a clean, lintfree cloth. To fill the transmission with fluid, pour it through a fine-mesh filter into the dipstick opening. Even the slightest impurity may cause operational troubles.

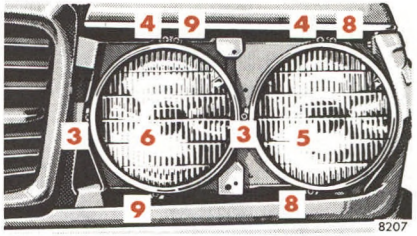
The fluid level in the transmission is dependent upon its temperature. The maximum and minimum fluid level marks on the dipstick are applicable references only if the transmission fluid has reached its normal operating temperature of 80° C/176° F.

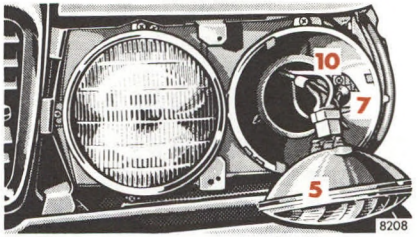
If the transmission fluid cools down to 20–30° C/68–86° F, which is the normal shop temperature range, then the maximum fluid level will be approximately 5 mm/0.2 in below the minimum mark on the dipstick. We stress this point because a fluid change is normally performed when the transmission fluid has cooled down to shop temperature.

The fluid level must not exceed the dipstick maximum mark with the fluid at operating temperature. Drain or siphon off excess fluid, if required.

Then push dipstick all the way in and swing locking lever downwards (2).







Headlamp Adjustment

Correct headlamp adjustment is extremely important. Check and readjust headlamps at regular intervals and invariably when a lamp has been replaced.

Replacing Bulbs

To remove, push the bulb in and turn to the left, then lift the bulb out.

To install, grip the bulb with a paper tissue or similar cloth, align the pins on the base of the bulb with the grooves in the bulb socket, push in lightly and turn to the right until the stop is felt.

Install only 12 volt bulbs with the specified watt rating.

Front Lamps

1 Cover

2 Securing screws for cover

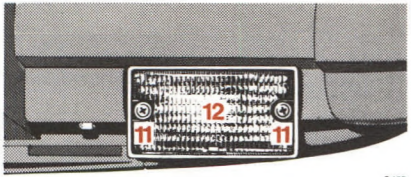
3 Horizontal adjusting screws

4 Vertical adjusting screws

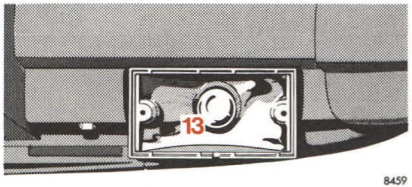
5 High and low beam sealed-beam unit (Sealed-beam/Halogen) type 2:
Loosen clamping screws (8), remove retaining ring and unit, disconnect plug and socket on unit.

6 High beam sealed-beam unit (Sealed-beam/Halogen) type 1:
Loosen clamping screws (9), remove retaining ring and unit, disconnect plug and socket on unit.

7 Side marker lamp (4 W/2 cp):
Remove unit (5), loosen clamping screw (10) and detach lamp holder. Depress bulb, turn left and pull out.



8458



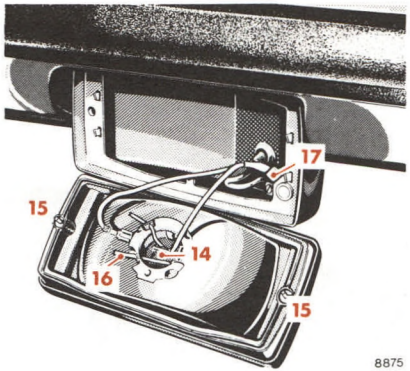
8459

13 Bulb for turn signal, clearance and standing lamps 21/5 W/ 32/3 cp:

The lamps are located below the bumper.

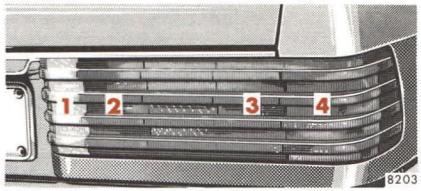
Loosen securing screws (11) and remove lens (12).

Depress bulb (13), turn left and pull out. When replacing the lens, it must be ensured that the lug in the lens is at the bottom.

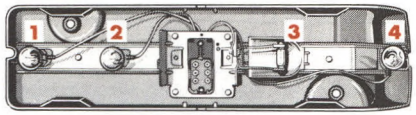


8875

14 Bulb for fog lamp (H3): Loosen securing screws (15) and remove housing. Detach holding spring (16), remove bulb (14) and disconnect plug (17).



8203



8204

Tail Lamp Assembly

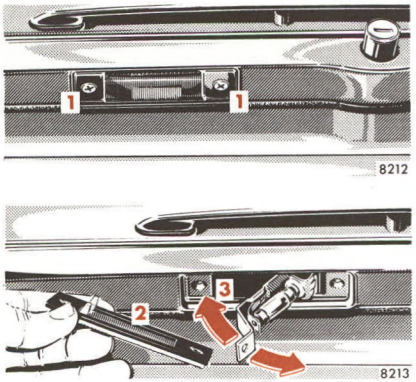
Remove both knurled nuts in the trunk and pull off lens assembly. To replace the bulbs, depress, turn left and pull out.

1 Backup lamp (21 W/32 cp)

2 Stop lamp (21 W/32 cp)

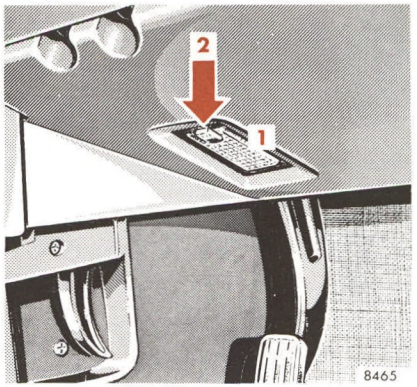
3 Tail, parking and standing lamp (10 W festoon lamp)

4 Turn signal lamp (21 W/32 cp) side marker lamp (5 W festoon lamp)



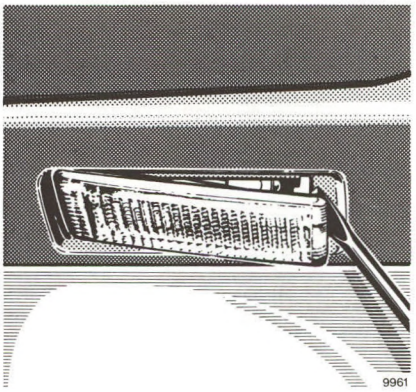
License Plate Lamps
(5 W festoon lamp)

Loosen both the securing screws (1) of the lamp, detach lens with gasket (2) and pull down lamp holder (3) on the L-H side. When replacing the lens, it must be assured that the lug in the lens is on the L-H side.



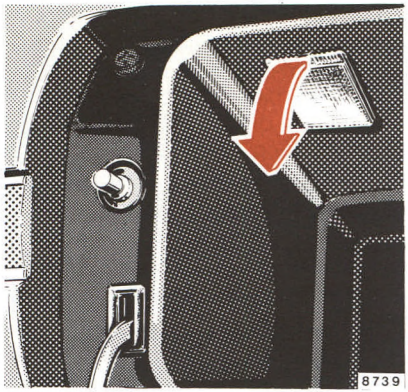
Footwell Lamps
(10 W festoon lamp)

Press off lamp (1) at the nose (2), replace bulb and press lamp on again.



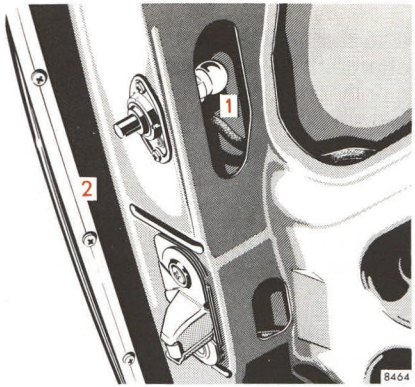
Dome Lamps
(5 W festoon lamp)

To replace the bulb, carefully pry loose the dome lamp lens by inserting a small screwdriver blade into the slot at one of the lens edges and pulling out the lens.



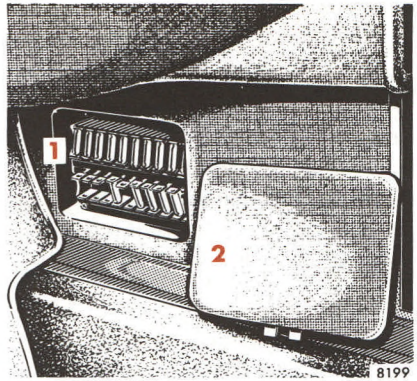
Glove Compartment Lamp
(5 W festoon lamp)

To replace the bulb, pull out lamp.



Trunk Lamp (5 W/3 cp)

The trunk lamp (1) is easily accessible when the trunk lid (2) is opened. To replace the bulb, depress, turn counterclockwise and take it out.



Fuses

The fuse box (1) is accommodated in the R-H side floor space.

A table in the fuse box cover (2) depicts all the protected electrical units.

Fuses must not be repaired or bridged.

Spare fuses for emergencies (observe amperage and color) are stored with the tools.

Diagnose the cause of a short circuit before replacing a burned-out fuse.

Battery

The battery is located in the trunk.

Check fluid level in each cell approximately every four weeks, and more frequently during the summer and in hot climates.

Refill battery only with distilled water. Do not use metal funnels or push through the overfill-protection diaphragms in filler holes.

The battery is completely filled when the water stops draining through the overfill-protection diaphragm.

To check the battery charge with a hydrometer, push its tip through the overfill-protection diaphragm and take the electrolyte sample.

Coat battery terminal clamps with acidproof grease. Keep battery clean and dry.

The service life of the battery is also dependent on its condition of charge. It must be maintained sufficiently charged for the battery to last an optimum length of time.

Therefore, we recommend that you have the battery charge checked frequently if you use the vehicle mostly for short distance trips, or if it is not used for long periods of time.

Only charge battery with a battery charger when it is disconnected from the vehicle electrical circuit.

Warning!

Battery fluid contains sulfuric acid. Do not allow this fluid to come in contact with eyes, skin, or clothing.

In case it does, immediately flush affected area with water; if necessary seek medical help.

A battery will also produce hydrogen gas, which is flammable and explosive. Keep flames or sparks away from battery, i. e. improper connection of jumper cables, cigarette smoking, etc..

While the engine is running the battery terminal clamps must not be loosened or detached as otherwise the alternator and other electronic units would be damaged.

Only tow vehicle with the battery connected.

Spark Plugs

This vehicle is equipped with spark plugs as required for driving in the USA. Should additional information be necessary, your MERCEDES-BENZ dealer will be happy to offer advice.

Towing eyes are situated underneath the R-H front and rear end. Use a solid towing link such as a towbar.

Only tow-start vehicle with the battery connected and the key in steering lock position "2".

Warning!

When the engine is not running, both the service brake and the steering are without power assistance. Under these circumstances, a much greater effort is necessary to steer or stop the vehicle.

Emergency Engine Start (Tow-starting)

Shift selector lever to position "N". Turn key in steering lock to position "2" and have vehicle towed.

After attaining a towing speed of 30 km/h/18 mph (with cold transmission) or 50 km/h/30 mph (with warm transmission), shift selector lever to position "2" to tow-start the engine.

Only touch the accelerator when the engine is turning. As soon as the engine has started, quickly return selector lever to "N".

If the engine fails to fire within a few seconds, return the selector lever from "2" to "N" as otherwise the transmission may be damaged.

For another starting attempt, tow car again for a short while with the selector lever in position "N" and then repeat starting procedure.

The same procedure may be used for starting the engine while rolling downhill.

Towing the Vehicle

The vehicle may be towed with all of the wheels on the ground and the selector lever in position "N" for distances up to 120 km/75 miles and at a speed not to exceed 50 km/h/30 mph.

To positively avoid a possibility of damage to the transmission, however, we recommend to disconnect the drive shaft at the rear axle drive flange on any towing beyond a short tow to a nearby garage.

Towing by lifting the front wheels is not recommended, since damage to the underside of the vehicle may occur.

Towing on a "dolly" with the rear wheels lifted is preferred. Attach T-hooks to the tie-down slots. Position a 4 ft long, 4 in x 4 in piece of wood under the bumper, behind the exhaust pipe. Position the towbar at the lower edge of the bumper.

Jump Starting

If the battery is discharged the engine can be started with jumper cables (minimum cable cross section is 25 mm^2) and the (12 V) battery of another vehicle. Proceed as follows:

1. Turn key to steering lock position "0".
2. First connect jumper cables to the positive battery terminals and then to the negative terminals.
3. Start and run engine of jumper vehicle at high idle.
4. Start engine of the disabled vehicle in the usual manner.
5. After the engine has started, first remove jumper cables from the negative battery terminals and then from the positive terminals.

Instructions:

A discharged battery can freeze at approx. $-10°$ C/$+14°$ F. In all cases it must be thawed out before jumper cables are used.

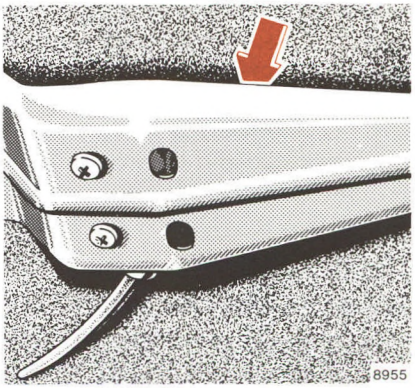
Warning!

Battery fluid contains sulfuric acid. Do not allow this fluid to come in contact with eyes, skin, or clothing. In case it does, immediately flush affected area with water, if necessary seek medical help.

A battery will also produce hydrogen gas, which is flammable and explosive. Keep flames or sparks away from battery, i. e. improper connection of jumper cables, cigarette smoking, etc..

Never lean over batteries while jump starting, you might get burned.

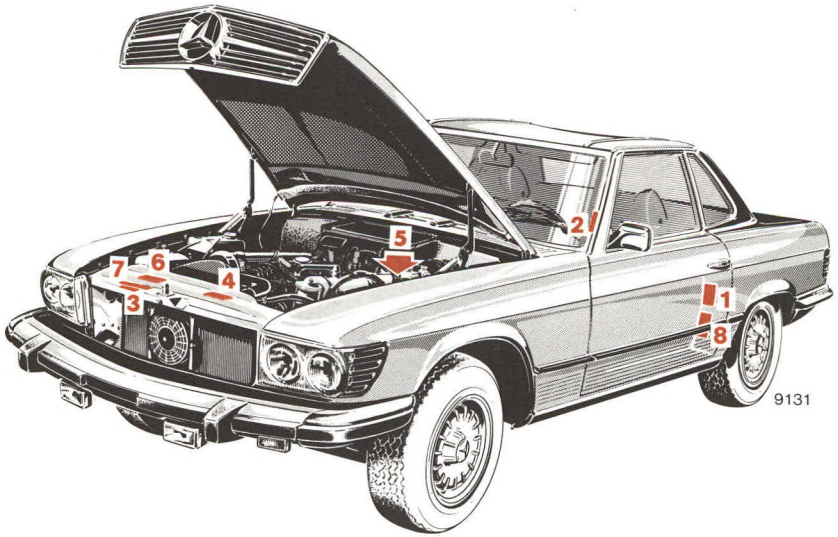
Unlocking of the Filler Flap



If the central locking system does not release the fuel filler flap automatically, pull down right trunk panel slightly and pull back the connecting rod between the vacuum element and door tab.

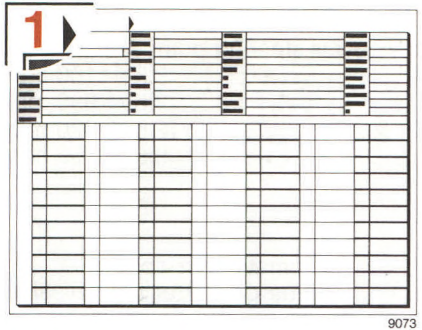
Technical Data
Fuels Coolants
Lubricants etc.

When ordering spare parts, please quote chassis and engine numbers.



1 Certification Tag (left door pillar)
2 Identification Tag (left window post)
3 Chassis No.
4 Body No. and Paintwork No.
5 Engine No.
6 Information Tag
California version
Vacuum line routing for emission control system
7 Emission Control Tag
8 Emission Control Tag
Catalyst Information

Vehicle Data Cards



9073

The vehicle data cards bear all the important data relating to your vehicle.

Data card No. 1 bears the key number and should never be left in the vehicle. Submit this card to your authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer to request a replacement key in case of loss.

Data card No. 2 bears no key data and is kept in the Maintenance Booklet. Presenting this card to the dealer will facilitate the processing of the order.

Warranty Coverage

Your car is covered under the terms of the "warranties" printed in the Owner's Service and Warranty Policy Booklet and your dealer will exchange or repair any defective parts in accordance with the terms of the following warranties:

1. New vehicle limited warranty
2. Emission systems warranty
3. Emission performance warranty
4. California emission control systems warranty (state of California only unless purchased optionally for diesel models).

Loss of Owner's Service and Warranty Policy

Should you lose your Owner's Service and Warranty Policy Booklet, have your local MB dealer arrange for a replacement. It will be mailed to you.

Chassis ..... 380 SL (107.045)

Engine

Engine 116
Mode of operation ..... 4-stroke engine, gasoline injection
No. of cylinders 8
Bore ..... 88.0 mm/3.46 in
Stroke ..... 78.9 mm/3.10 in
Total piston displacement ..... 3839 cm^3/234.3 in^3
Compression ratio 8.3
Output according to SAE ..... 116 kW/4750 rpm/ 155 net-bhp/4750 rpm
Firing order 1–5–4–8–6–3–7–2

V-belts:

Water pump – fan – power steering pump
2 V-belts ..... 9.5 x 1100 mm
Alternator ..... 9.5 x 990 mm
Air conditioning ..... 12.5 x 920 mm
Air pump ..... 9.5 x 750 mm

Transmission

Design ..... Automatic four-speed torque-converter transmission

Steering System

Design ..... Power steering

Electrical System

Alternator ..... 14 V/70 A
Starter motor ..... 12 V/1.5 kW
Battery ..... 12 V/88 Ah
Spark plugs ..... see “last page”

Rims – Tires

Rims (forged light alloy rims) ..... 6½ J × 14 H 2
Summer tires:
Radial-ply tires ..... 205/70 R 14 93 H
Winter tires:
Radial-ply tires ..... 205/70 R 14 93 Q M+S
205/70 R 14 93 T M+S

Weights ..... See certification tag

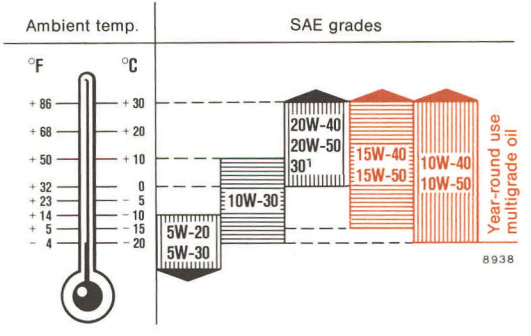
Main Dimensions

Overall vehicle length ..... 4580 mm/180.3 in
Overall vehicle width ..... 1790 mm/ 70.5 in
Overall height,
Roadster ..... 1300 mm/ 51.2 in
Hardtop ..... 1290 mm/ 50.8 in
Wheel base ..... 2460 mm/ 96.9 in
Track, front ..... 1452 mm/ 57.2 in
Track, rear ..... 1440 mm/ 56.7 in

Vehicle components and their respective lubricants must match.

Therefore use only brands tested and recommended by us.

Inquire at your authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

	Capacity	Fuels, coolants, lubricants, etc.
Total oil capacity in case of engine oil and filter change	8.0 l/8.5 US qt	Recommended engine oil  [1] SAE 40 may be used if ambient temperatures constantly exceed + 30° C/+ 86° F.
Automatic transmission	Initial fill: 8.6 l/9.1 US qt Fluid change: 7.7 l/8.1 US qt	Automatic transmission fluid for automatic transmission[2]

[2] Any authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer will advise you on recommended brands.

	Capacity	Fuels, coolants, lubricants, etc.
Rear axle	1.3 l/1.4 US qt	Hypoid gear oil SAE 90, 85 W 90[1]
Accelerator control linkage		Hydraulic fluid
Power steering	1.4 l/1.5 US qt	Automatic transmission fluid for power steering[1]
Front wheel hubs	approx. 70 g each/2.5 oz. each	High temperature roller bearing grease
Grease nipples		Multipurpose or lubrication grease
Door locks		Powdered graphite
Battery terminals		Bosch special grease
Brake reservoir	approximately 0.5 l/0.5 US qt	Brake fluid[1]
Windshield washer system	approximately 5.0 l/5.3 US qt	Windshield washer solvent
Fuel tank including a reserve of	approximately 85 l/22.5 US gal approximately 11.5 l/3.0 US gal	Unleaded gasoline: Average Octane of Research and Motor 87 (RON of 91)
Cooling system	12.5 l/13.2 US qt	Coolant[1]

[1] Any authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer will advise you on recommended brands.

Engine Oils

Engine oils are specifically tested for their suitability in our engines. Therefore, use only engine oils recommended by us. Information on recommended brands is available at any authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

On a new vehicle, the engine is filled with break-in oil in the factory. This oil is specially developed for the specific operating conditions during the first 1300–1600 km/800–1000 miles.

A recommended engine oil may be used for topping up if the oil level drops to the dipstick minimum mark prior to the first service 1300–1600 km/800–1000 miles.

Fuel Requirements

Use only unleaded gasoline meeting ASTM standard D 439:

The octane number (posted at the pump) must be **87 min**. It is an average of both, the Research (R) octane number and the Motor (M) octane number: (R + M)/2. This is also known as ANTI-KNOCK INDEX.

Unleaded gasoline containing oxygenates such as Ethanol, MTBE, IPA, IBA and TBA can be used provided the ratio of either one of these oxygenates to gasoline does not exceed 10 %.

The ratio of Methanol to gasoline must not exceed 3 %. In both cases, this does not include the cosolvents.

Using mixtures of Ethanol and Methanol is not allowed. MTBE may, however, be added up to 15 %. Gasohol, which contains 10 % Ethanol and 90 % unleaded gasoline, can be used.

These blends must also meet all other fuel requirements such as resistance to spark knock, boiling range, vapor pressure, etc..

Brake Fluid

During the course of the operation of the vehicle, the boiling point of the brake fluid is continuously reduced through the absorption of moisture from the atmosphere. Under extremely hard operating conditions, this moisture content can lead to the formation of vapor in the system thus reducing the system's efficiency. The brake fluid must therefore be replaced annually, preferably in the spring. It is recommended to use only brake fluid approved by MERCEDES-BENZ.

Your MERCEDES-BENZ dealer will provide you with additional information.

Coolants

The engine coolant is a mixture of water and anticorrosion/antifreeze, which provides:

- corrosion protection
- freeze protection
- boiling protection (by increasing the boiling point).

The cooling system was filled at the factory with a coolant providing freeze protection to −30° C/−22° F and corrosion protection. The red area of the temperature gauge is matched to the heating properties of this coolant solution.

The coolant solution must be used year round to provide the necessary corrosion protection and increase in the boil-over protection. You should have it replaced every 3 years.

To provide the important corrosion protection, the solution must be at least 33 % anticorrosion/antifreeze (equals a freeze protection to −20° C/−4° F). If you use a solution that is more than 55 % anticorrosion/antifreeze (freeze protection to −40° C/−40° F), the engine temperature will increase due to the lower heat transfer capability of the solution. Therefore, do not use more than this amount of anticorrosion/antifreeze.

If the coolant level is low, water and M-B anticorrosion/antifreeze should be used to bring it up to the proper level (have cooling system checked for signs of leakage).

The water in the cooling system must meet minimum requirements, which are usually satisfied by normal drinking water. If you are not sure about the water quality, consult your authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

Anticorrosion/antifreeze

Your vehicle contains a number of aluminium parts. The use of aluminium components in motor vehicle engines necessitates that anticorrosion/antifreeze/coolant used in such engines be specifically formulated to protect the aluminium parts. (Failure to use such anticorrosion/antifreeze/coolant may result in a significantly shortened service life.)

While there may be a number of anticorrosion/antifreeze/coolants available which will provide the required protection, all such products have not been tested for MERCEDES-BENZ vehicles. The following product, however, is recommended for use in your car: MERCEDES-BENZ Anticorrosion/Antifreeze Agent.

Before the start of the winter season (or once a year in the hot southern regions), you should have the anticorrosion/antifreeze concentration checked. The coolant is also regularly checked each time you bring your vehicle to your authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer for maintenance service.

Freeze protection	Anticorrosion/ antifreeze
−30° C / −22° F	5.50 l/5.8 US qt
−40° C / −40° F	6.50 l/6.9 US qt

Customers who are interested in ordering service literature for their vehicles are advised to contact our subsidiaries in the U.S. or Canada at the following addresses.

for U.S.A.: Mercedes-Benz of N.A. Inc.
One Mercedes Drive
P. O. Box 350
Montvale, New Jersey 07645
Att: Technical Publications
Tel: (201) 573-0600

for Canada: Mercedes-Benz of Canada
849 Eglinton Ave., East
Toronto 17, Ont., Canada
Att: Service Department
Tel: 416-425-3550

The above companies will be happy to handle any such requests from customers.

We consider this to be the best way to obtain accurate information for your vehicle.

This has been prepared as required of all manufacturers of passenger cars under Title 49, Code of U.S. Federal Regulations, Part 575 pursuant to the "National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966".

Uniform Tire Quality Grading

Relevant tire grade information on tire flanks.

All passenger car tires must conform to federal safety requirements in addition to these grades.

Traction "A", "B", "C"

The traction grades, from highest to lowest, are "A", "B" and "C" and they represent the tire's ability to stop on wet pavement as measured under controlled conditions on specified government test surfaces of asphalt and concrete. A tire marked "C" may have poor traction performance. Warning: The traction grade assigned to this tire is based on braking (straightahead) traction tests and does not include cornering (turning) traction.

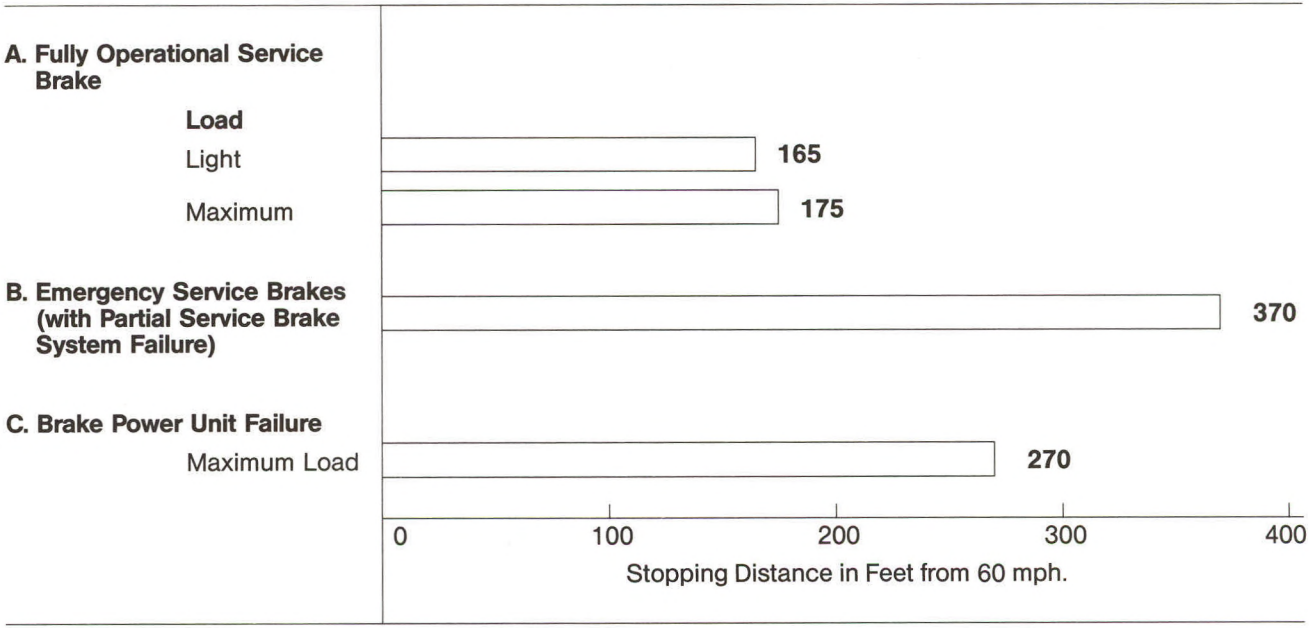
Temperature "A", "B", "C"

The temperature grades of "A" (the highest). "B" and "C" representing the tire's resistance to the generation of heat and its ability to dissipate heat when tested under controlled conditions on a specified indoor laboratory test wheel. Sustained high temperature can cause the material of the tire to degenerate and reduce tire life, and excessive temperature can lead to sudden tire failure. The grade "C" corresponds to a level of performance which all passenger car tires must meet under the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 109. Grades "B" and "A" represent higher levels of performance on the laboratory test wheel than the minimum required by law. Warning: The temperature grade for this tire is established for a tire that is properly inflated and not overloaded. Excessive speed, underinflation, or excessive loading, either separately or in combination, can cause heat buildup and possible tire failure.

Vehicle Stopping Distance

This figure indicates braking performance that can be met or exceeded by the vehicles to which it applies, under different conditions of loading and with partial failures of the braking system. The information presented represents results obtainable by skilled drivers under controlled road and vehicle conditions, and the information may not be correct under other conditions.

Description of the vehicles to which this table applies: **380 SL**



Printed in Germany

ZKD/9.84.8/Ru.

What You Should Know at the Gas Station

- **Fuel:** Unleaded gasoline: Average Octane of Research and Motor 87 (RON of 91).

  Fuel tank capacity approx. 85 l/22.5 US gal, this includes approx. 11.5 l/3.0 US gal reserve.

  Only fill fuel tank until the filler nozzle unit cuts out – do not overfill.

- **Engine Oil:** Engine oil level check, see page 67.

  Quantity differential between upper and lower dipstick marking level 2.0 l/2.1 US qt.

  Year-round multigrade oils 10 W-40, 10 W-50, 15 W-40, 15 W-50.

  For further information, refer to page 82.

- **Automatic Transmission:** Automatic transmission fluid for automatic transmission.

  For level checks and replenishment, refer to page 69.

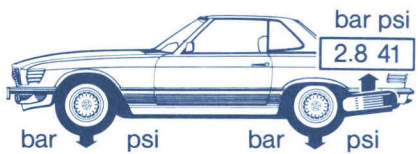
- **Coolant:** For normal replenishment, use water (potable water quality).

  For further information (e. g. anticorrosion/ antifreeze), refer to page 85.

- **Bulbs:** High and low beams: Sealed beam/ Halogen insert No. 1 and 2, turn signal, clearance and standing lamps, front 21/5 W/32/3 cp, turn signal lamps, rear 21 W/32 cp, tail and standing lamps, rear 10 W festoon lamp, stop lamps 21 W/32 cp, license plate lamps 5 W festoon lamp.

- **Spark Plugs:** Beru 14-9 D, Beru 14-9 DU, Bosch W 9 D, Bosch W 9 DC, Champion N 12 Y, Champion N 12 YC.

- **Tire Pressure:** Cold tires:



	bar	psi	bar	psi
Summer tires:	2.2[1]	32[1]	2.5[1]	36[1]
Winter tires:	2.3	33	2.6	38

Warm tires:
Pressure may rise by up to +0.5 bar/+7 psi.

Never release any air from a warm tire to off-set pressure increase!

[1] For driving above 180 km/h/110 mph +0.2 bar/+3 psi.

For driving up to 160 km/h/100 mph −0.2 bar/−3 psi.

Daimler-Benz AG
Stuttgart-Untertuerkheim
Zentralkundendienst

Mercedes-Benz
service

107 584 08 97
Order No. 6550 5594 13 USA-Ausgabe D 1985