Seat Belts and Supplemental Restraint System (SRS)

Your vehicle is equipped with seat belts for all seats, emergency tensioning retractors for the front seats, airbags and knee bolsters for driver and front passenger.

Seat Belts

Important!

Laws in most states and all Canadian provinces require seat belt use.

All states and provinces require use of child restraints that comply with U.S. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 and Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213.1.

We strongly recommend their use.

Warning!

Never ride in a moving vehicle with the seat back reclined. Sitting in an excessively reclined position can be dangerous. You could slide under the seat belt in a collision. If you slide under it, the belt would apply force at the abdomen or neck. That could cause serious or even fatal injuries. The seat back and seat belts provide the best restraint when the wearer is in an upright position and belts are properly positioned on the body.

Seat Belt Warning System

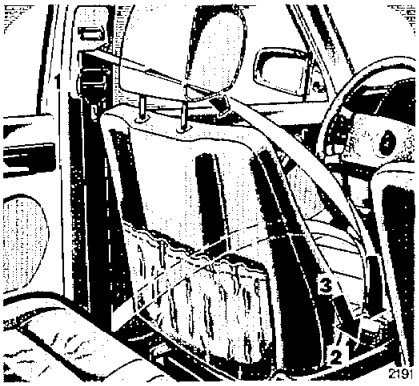
With the key in steering lock position 2, an audible warning sounds for a short time if the driver's seat belt is not fastened.

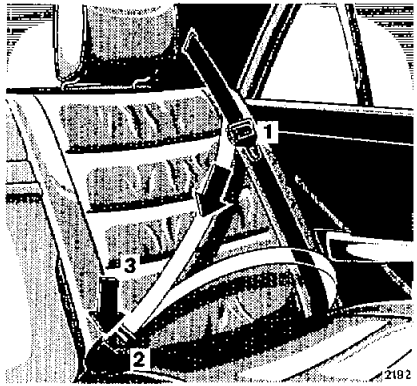
When someone enters the car (front) the reminder lamp, located below the front interior/reading lamp, flashes for a short time to remind all occupants to fasten seat belts.

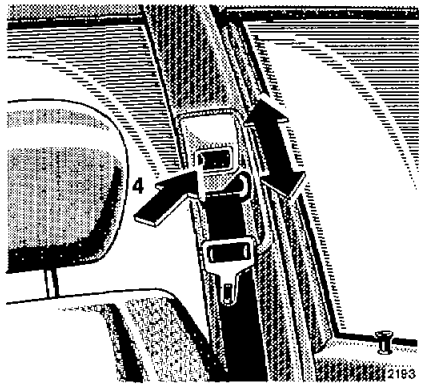
Warning!

If you are ever in an accident, your injuries can be considerably more severe without your seat belt properly buckled. Without your seat belt buckled, you can hit the interior of the vehicle or be ejected from it. You can be seriously injured or killed.

In the same crash, the possibility for injury or death is lessened with your seat belt buckled.







1 Latch plate
2 Buckle
3 Release button

Fastening

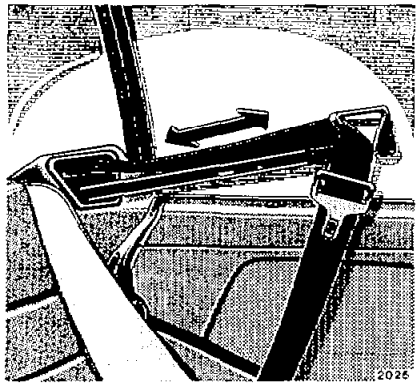
Pull belt with latch plate (1) across shoulder and lap so that the lap belt is positioned as low as possible on your hips and not across the abdomen. Do not twist the belt. For safety reasons, avoid adjusting the seat or seat back into positions which could affect the correct seat belt position.

Push latch plate (1) into buckle (2) until it clicks.

Sedan

Adjust front seat belts so the upper belt is located as close as possible to the middle of the shoulder (it should not touch the neck). For this purpose, push button (4) and raise or lower belt outlet (3 positions).

The shoulder portion of the seat belt must be pulled snug and checked for snugness immediately after engaging it and during driving. Tighten the lap portion to a snug fit by pulling shoulder portion up.



Coupé

When the respective door is closed and the key is in steering lock position 2, the seat belt extender brings the belt forward within easy reach of the occupant.

The seat belt extender returns to its rest position when the seat belt is buckled or when resistance to its extension is encountered (e.g., accidental occupant contact).

If the seat belt is not buckled within 30 seconds, the seat belt extender will return to its rest position.

This is also the case if the key is turned to steering lock position 1 or 0 or if the door is opened.

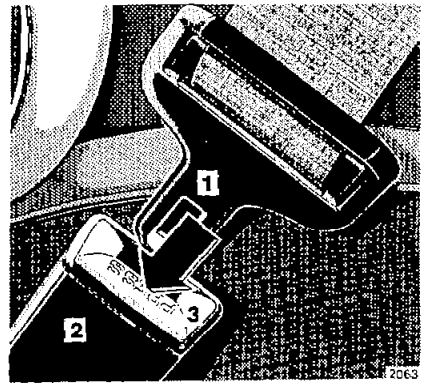
Emergency operation:

If the electrical system fails, the extender arm and belt can be manually pushed back into their rest position.

The shoulder portion of the seat belt must be pulled snug and checked for snugness immediately after engaging it and during driving. Tighten the lap portion to a snug fit by pulling shoulder portion up.

The swivel fitting (mounted on the lower anchoring point to facilitate entering the vehicle) must point forward when fastening the seat belt.

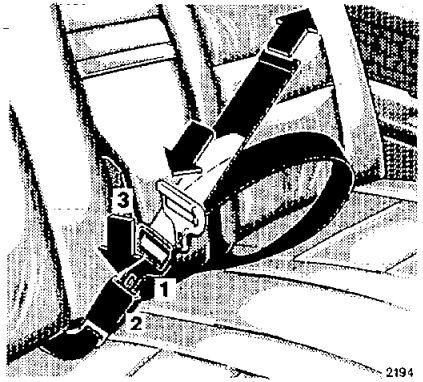
The pivot plate must face to the rear with the seat belt extender in the retracted position.



Unfastening

Push in the red button (3) in the belt buckle (2).

Allow the retractor to completely rewind the seat belt by guiding the 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 tighten the fastened front seat belts during frontal and front-angled impacts exceeding the first threshold of the SRS (see page 42).

Lap belt for center seating position of the rear seat

Pull belt with latch plate (1) over lap so that the belt is positioned as low as possible on your hips and not across the abdomen. Push latch plate (1) into buckle (2) until it clicks. Do not twist the belt but keep it tight.

To tighten the belt: With the latch plate engaged, pull the loose end of the belt.

To lengthen the belt: With the belt unfastened, turn the latch plate so that it is a little more than 90° perpendicular to the belt, then extend the belt. Fasten the belt and tighten as stated above.

To disengage the belt, push red button (3) in the buckle.

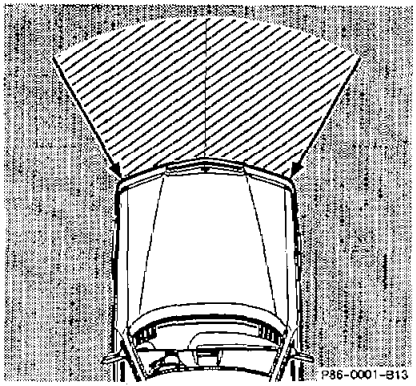
If the center seat is not occupied, the belt buckle and rolled-up seat belt can be stored in the space next to the rear arm rest (to the left or right of arm rest).

Warning!

- Each occupant should wear their seat belt at all times. Together with the "SRS" (airbags, ETR'S and knee bolsters for driver and front passenger), the seat belt offers the best conditions for protection of the body in case of major frontal impact.
- Never wear the shoulder belt under your arm, against your neck or off your shoulder. In a crash, your body would move too far forward. That would increase the chance of head and neck injuries. The belt would also apply too much force to the ribs, this could severely injure internal organs such as your liver or spleen. Position the lap belt as low as possible on your hips and not across the abdomen. If the belt is positioned across your abdomen, it could cause serious injuries in a crash.
- Improperly positioned seat belts do not provide maximum protection and may cause serious injuries in case of an accident.
- According to accident statistics, children are safer when properly restrained in the rear seating positions than in the front seating positions.
- Infants and small children must be seated in an infant or child restraint system, which is properly secured by a lap belt or lap belt portion of a lap-shoulder belt. Children could be endangered in an accident if their child restraints are not properly secured in the vehicle.
- Children too big for child restraint systems should ride in rear seats using regular seat belts. Position shoulder belt across the chest and shoulder, not the face or neck. A booster seat may be necessary to achieve proper belt positioning.
- Adjust the passenger seat as far as possible rearward from the dashboard, especially if a child restraint is installed.
- Each seat belt should never be used for more than one person at a time.
- Belts should not be worn twisted. In a crash, you wouldn't have the full width of the belt to take impact forces. The twisted belt against your body could cause injuries.
- Pregnant women should also use a lap-shoulder belt. The lap belt portion should be positioned as low as possible on the hips to avoid any possible pressure on the abdomen.

For cleaning and care of the seat belts, see page 97.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESTRAINT SYSTEM (SRS)



The SRS uses two crash severity levels (thresholds) to activate either the ETR or airbag or both. Activation depends on exceeding the thresholds and fastening of the seat belt.

Seat belt fastened

- first threshold exceeded: ETR activates
- second threshold exceeded: airbag also activates

Seat belt not fastened

- first threshold exceeded: airbag activates, but not ETR

Driver and front passenger systems operate independently from each other.

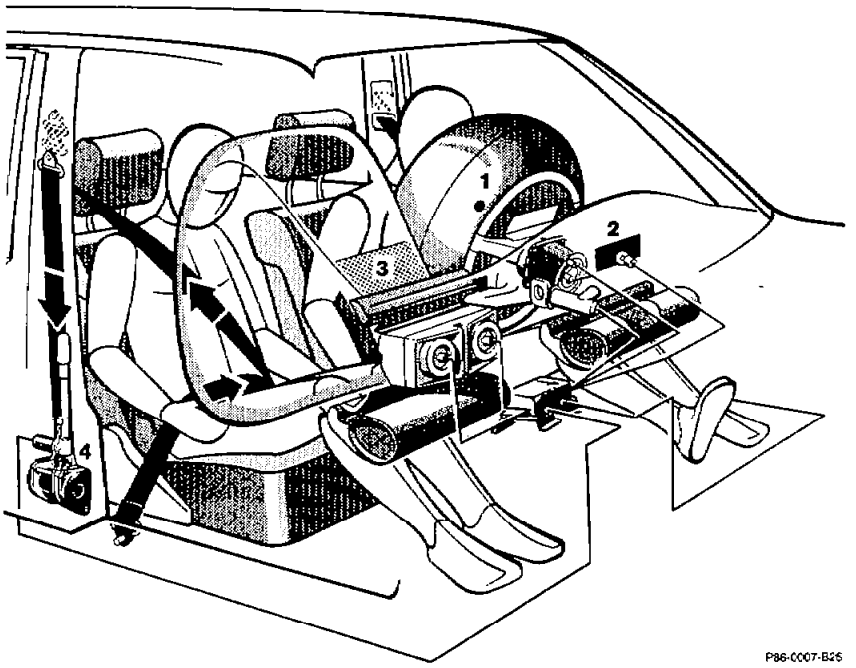
Emergency Tensioning Retractor (ETR)

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

The emergency tensioning retractors are designed to activate only when the seat belts are fastened during frontal and front-angled impacts exceeding the first threshold of the SRS. They remove slack from the belts in such a way that the seat belts fit more snugly against the body restricting its forward movement as much as possible.

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

For seat belt and emergency tensioning retractor safety guidelines, see page 46.



Airbags

The most effective occupant restraint system yet developed for use in production vehicles is the three point seat belt. In some cases, however, the protective effect of seat belts can be further enhanced by an airbag.

The driver airbag (1) is located in the steering wheel hub, the front passenger airbag (3) is located in the dashboard ahead of the front passenger and, in conjunction with wearing the seat belts with emergency tensioning retractors (4), they provide increased protection for the driver and front passenger.

The operational readiness of the airbag system is verified by the indicator lamp "SRS" (2) in the instrument cluster. If no fault is detected, the lamp will go out after approximately 4 seconds; after the lamp goes out, the system continues to monitor the components and circuitry of the airbag system and will indicate a malfunction by coming on again.

The following system components are monitored or undergo a self-check: crash-sensor, airbag ignition circuit, driver and front passenger seat belt buckles. Initially, when the key is turned from steering lock position 0 to positions 1 or 2, malfunctions in the crash-sensor are detected and indicated (the "SRS" indicator lamp stays on longer than 4 seconds).

In the operational mode, after the indicator lamp has gone out following the initial check, interruptions and short circuits in the airbag ignition circuit and in the driver and front passenger seat belt buckle harnesses, and low voltage in the entire system are detected and indicated.

In the event a malfunction of the "SRS" is indicated as outlined above, the "SRS" may not be operational. We strongly recommend that you visit an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer immediately to have the system checked; otherwise the "SRS" may not be activated when needed.

Important!

The airbags are designed to activate only in certain frontal and front-angled impacts (within the shaded area as shown in the illustration on page 42). Only during these types of impacts will they provide their supplemental protection. The driver and front passenger should always wear the seat belt, otherwise it is not possible for the airbags to provide their intended protection.

In cases of other frontal impacts, roll-overs, certain side impacts, rear collisions, or other accidents without frontal forces, the airbags will not be activated. The driver and passengers will then be protected by the fastened seat belts.

Important!

The "SRS" is designed to reduce the potential of injury in certain frontal and front-angled impacts which may cause injuries, however, no system available today can totally eliminate injuries and fatalities.

The activation of the "SRS" temporarily releases a small amount of dust from the airbags. This dust, however, is neither injurious to your health, nor does it indicate a fire in the vehicle.

The service life of the airbags extends to the date indicated on the label located on the driver-side door latch post. To provide continued reliability after that date, they should be inspected by an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer at that time and replaced when necessary.

Warning!

It is very important for your safety to be in a proper seating position.

For maximum protection in the event of a collision always ride in an upright position with your back against the seat back. Fasten your seat belt and ensure that it is properly positioned on the body.

Since the airbag must inflate with considerable speed and force, a proper seating position will keep you a safe distance from the airbag:

- Sit properly belted in an upright position with your back against the seat back.
- Do not lean with your head or chest to the steering wheel or dashboard.
- Adjust the passenger seat as far as possible rearward from the dashboard, especially if a child restraint is installed.
- Infants and small children should only be seated in a rear seat and be properly secured using a child or infant safety seat/restraint system.

Failure to follow these instructions can result in severe injuries to you or other occupants.

Safety Guidelines for the Seat Belt, Emergency Tensioning Retractor and Airbag

Warning!

- **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 an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.**
- **Do not pass belts over sharp edges.**
- **Do not make any modification that could change the effectiveness of the belts.**
- **The"SRS" is designed to function on a one-time-only basis. An airbag or emergency tensioning retractor (ETR) 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 or front passenger airbag cover and installation of additional electrical/electronic equipment on or near "SRS" components and wiring.**
- **Several airbag system components at the steering wheel get hot after the airbag has inflated. Don't try to touch them.**
- **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 emergency tensioning retractor, it is mandatory to follow our safety instructions. These instructions are available at your authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.**

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

Infant and Child Restraint Systems

We recommend that all infants and children be restrained at all times while the vehicle is in motion.

Important!

The use of infant or child restraints is required by law in all 50 states and all Canadian provinces.
Infants and small children should be seated in an infant or child restraint system, which is properly secured by a lap belt or lap belt portion of a lap-shoulder belt, and that complies with U.S. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 and Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213.1.
A statement by the child restraint manufacturer of compliance with this standard can be found on the instruction label on the restraint and in the instruction manual provided with the restraint.
When using any infant or child restraint system, be sure to carefully read and follow all manufacturer's instructions for installation and use.

Warning!

When the child restraint is not in use, remove it from the car or secure it with the seat belt to prevent the child restraint from becoming a projectile in the event of an accident.

Infants and small children should never be held on the lap while the vehicle is in motion. During an accident they would be almost impossible to hold, and could be crushed between the adult and the dashboard.

Infants and small children should never share a seat belt with another occupant. During an accident, they could be crushed between the occupant and seat belt.

According to accident statistics, children are safer when properly restrained in the rear seating positions than in the front seating positions.

Children too big for child restraint systems should ride in rear seats using regular seat belts. Position shoulder belt across the chest and shoulder, not the face or neck. A booster seat may be necessary to achieve proper belt positioning.

U.S.A. Models only

Since 1986 all child restraints comply with U.S. regulations (or FMVSS 213) without the use of a tether strap.

Canada Models only

This vehicle can be equipped with tether anchorages for use with child restraints that have a top tether strap. Consult your authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer for the exact locations of these anchorages.

In compliance with Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 210.1, child restraint tether anchorage hardware is attached to the tool kit located in the trunk.