Cleaning and Care of the Vehicle

Warning!

Many cleaning products can be hazardous. Some are poisonous, others are flammable. Always follow the instructions on the particular container. Always open your car's doors or windows when cleaning the inside.

Never use fluids or solvents that are not designed for cleaning your car.

In operation, your vehicle is subjected to 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 removed immediately 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 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 reundercoated.

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.

We have selected car-care products and compiled recommendations which are specially matched to our vehicles and which always reflect the latest technology. You can obtain MB car-care products at your authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

Scratches, corrosive deposits, corrosion or damage due to negligent or incorrect care cannot always be removed or repaired 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.

Engine Cleaning

Corrosion protection, such as MB Anticorrosion Wax should be applied to the engine compartment after every engine cleaning. Before applying, all control linkage bushings should be lubricated. The V-belts and all pulleys should be protected from any wax.

Car Washing

Before washing your vehicle, remove insect residues. MB Insect Remover is recommended. Do not use hot water or wash your car in direct sunlight. Use only a mild car wash detergent, such as MB Autoshampoo.

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. Do not allow cleaning agents to dry on the finish.

If the vehicle has been run through an automatic car wash – in particular one of the older installations – rewipe the recessed sections in the taillamps (designed to prevent 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 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. MB Tar Remover is recommended.

Window Cleaning, Wiper Blades

Use a window cleaning solution on very dirty or oil-stained windows. Clean the wiper blade rubber with a clean cloth and detergent solution. Replace blades twice a year; once before and once after winter.

Headlamp Cleaning System

The condition of the wiper blades is important for satisfactory cleaning of the headlamp lenses. We therefore recommend that the blades be inspected regularly.

Replace damaged wiper blades.

Plastic Parts, Headliner and Rubber Parts

Do not use oil or wax on these parts.

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.

Warning!

Do not bleach or dye seat belts as this may severely weaken them. In a crash they may not be able to provide adequate protection.

Instrument Cluster

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.

Steering Wheel and Selector Lever

Wipe with a damp cloth and dry througly or clean with MB Leather Cleaner.

Upholstery

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.

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

Velour Upholstery
Pressure marks resulting from dampness and heat may appear to be stains. Such marks can be removed by wiping with a moistened brush, ironing with a wet cloth or by treating with a dry shampoo. Do not sit on damp upholstery. Quick drying is achieved by applying hot air – for example, by using a hair dryer. If in doubt, please consult your authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

Paintwork, Painted Body Components

MB-Paint Protector and Sealer should be applied when water drops on the paint surface do not "bead up"; normally in 3 - 5 months depending on climate and washing detergent used.

MB-Paint-Polish should be applied if paint surface shows signs of dirt embedding (i.e. loss of gloss).

MB-Fine Polishing Paste must be used when the paint surface shows signs of excessive fading/ chalking due to lack of care, etc..

Do not apply any of these products or wax if your car is parked in the sun or if the hood is still hot.

Use the appropriate MB Touch-Up Stick for quick and provisional repairs of minor paint damage (i.e. chips from stones, car doors, etc.).

Automatic Antenna

For trouble-free operation of the automatic antenna, we recommend to clean the antenna mast periodically.

Light Alloy Wheels

MB-Autoshampoo should be used for regular cleaning of the light alloy wheels.

If possible, clean wheels once a week with MB-Autoshampoo, using a soft sponge and an ample supply of lukewarm water.

If the MB-Autoshampoo does not satisfactorily clean the wheels, use MB-Protective Agent for Light Alloy Wheels for normal cleaning and MB-Cleaner for Light Alloy Wheels for heavier dirt accumulation.

Follow instructions on container.

Ornamental Moldings

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