

Seat Belts and Supplemental Restraint System (SRS)

Your vehicle is equipped with seat belts for all seats, emergency tensioning retractors for the front seats, as well as 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, a warning sounds for a short time if the driver's seat belt is not fastened.

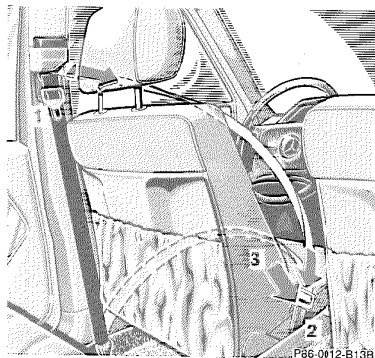
When someone enters the car (front) the reminder lamp, located below the front interior/reading lamp, flashes for a short time to remind all occupants to fasten seat belts.

Warning!

Failure to wear and properly fasten and position your seat belt greatly increases your risk of injuries and their likely severity in an accident. You and your passengers should always wear seat belts.

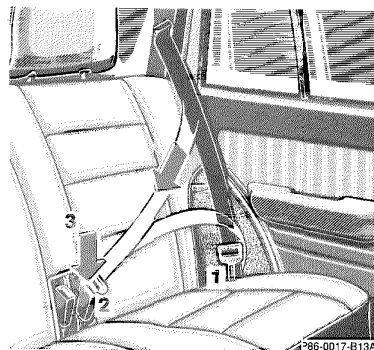
If you are ever in an accident, your injuries can be considerably more severe without your seat belt properly buckled. Without your seat belt buckled, you can hit the interior of the vehicle or be ejected from it. You can be seriously injured or killed.

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



Front seat

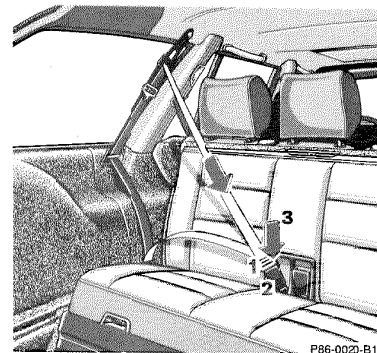
- 1 Latch plate
- 2 Buckle
- 3 Release button



Split rear seat bench

Fastening of Seat Belts

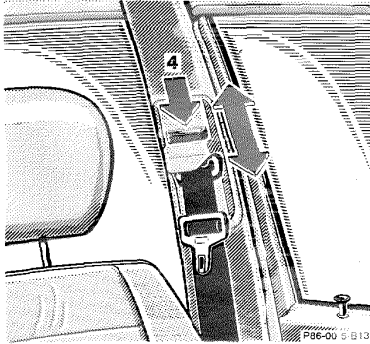
Pull belt with latch plate (1) across shoulder and lap so that the lap belt is positioned as low as possible on your hips and not across the abdomen. Do not twist the belt. A twisted seat belt may cause injury.



Rear-facing bench seat

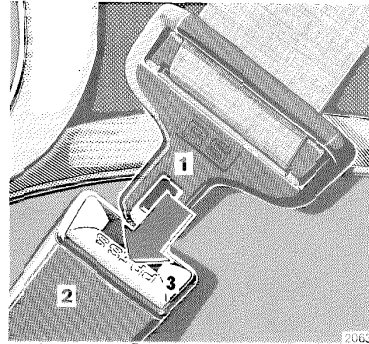
For safety reasons, avoid adjusting the seat or seat back into positions which could affect the correct seat belt position.

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



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

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.



Unfastening of Seat Belts

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:

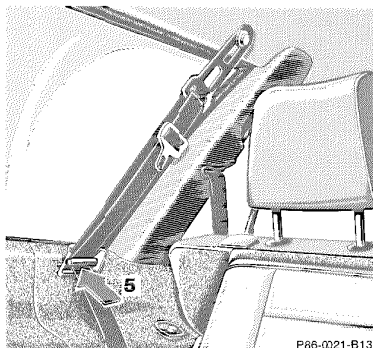
The inertia reel stops the belt from unwinding during sudden vehicle stops or when quickly pulling on the belt.

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 Index).

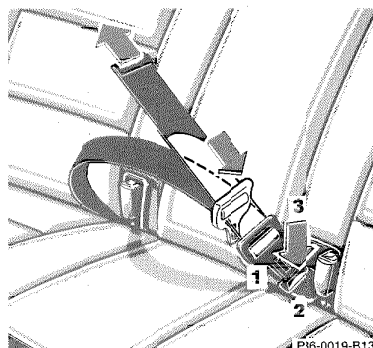


Operation



P86-0021-B13

If the rear-facing bench seat is not being used, hook the seat belts into the holders (5).



P86-0019-B13

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.

Note:

For cleaning and care of the seat belts, see *Cleaning and Care of the Vehicle* in Index.

Warning!

USE SEAT BELTS PROPERLY.

- Each occupant should wear their seat belt at all times, because seat belts help reduce the likelihood of and potential severity of injuries in accidents, including roll-overs. "SRS" (driver airbag, passenger airbag), "ETR" (seat belt emergency tensioning retractors), and knee bolsters are designed to enhance the protection offered to properly belted occupants in certain frontal impacts which exceed pre-set deployment thresholds.
- Improperly positioned seat belts do not provide maximum protection and may cause serious injuries in case of an accident.
- 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 or abdomen, which 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.
- Each seat belt should never be used for more than one person at a time. Do not fasten a seat belt around a person and objects.
- 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.

USE CHILD RESTRAINTS PROPERLY.

- 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.
- Rear-facing child restraints must not be used in the front seat. They could be struck by the airbag when it inflates in a crash. If this happens, a child in the restraint could be seriously or fatally injured.

- 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 chest and shoulder, not face or neck. A booster seat may be necessary to achieve proper belt positioning.
- Adjust the front passenger seat as far as possible rearward from the dashboard when a child restraint is installed.

Supplemental Restraint System (SRS)

The SRS uses two crash severity levels (thresholds) to activate either the ETR or airbag or both. Activation depends on the direction and severity of the impact, 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 *Safety Guidelines* in Index.