The Completely Redesigned 2006 M-Class









The Concept

The Mercedes-Benz legacy is rich in firsts and foremosts. With its unprecedented levels of civility and safety, the original M-Class reinvented the very essence of a midsize luxury SUV. The second-generation M-Class exceeds every key benchmark of its pioneering predecessor and sets new ones of its own. The all-new 2006 M-Class is characterized by an aggressive wedge shape complemented by sweeping front fenders, dramatic shoulder lines and a sharply angled windshield. The new SUV is 150 mm longer, 71 mm wider and 6 mm lower on the road than its predecessor, with a 2915 mm wheelbase that's 93 mm longer as well.







The Interior

The interior of the new 2006 M-Class has been completely redesigned to provide more comfort and user-friendly space. It is marked by a sporty instrument panel, a cleverly reconfigured centre console, a multifunction steering wheel that lets you view displays of information and control and program your vehicle and audio settings, rich interior materials and significantly improved spaciousness for all five seating positions. And when your priorities transition from passengers to packages, 60/40-split folding rear seats can be easily lowered without removing the head restraints. With the seats down, the cargo bay expands to up to 2,050 litres.



Performance

The new M-Class will be available with a choice of a 3.5 litre, 268-hp V-6 or a 5 litre, 302-hp V-8 power. Quiet, smooth and incredibly refined, both engines feature key components made from aluminium alloy to help reduce weight.

The new M-Class also comes with the world's only production 7-speed automatic transmission on an SUV which monitors your driving style and adapts its shift points accordingly. Shift control is also simpler than ever thanks to a small stalk located on the right side of the steering column. The shift control's new position frees up the middle console for additional storage and space for two beverages.

Useful Technology Abounds

The Mercedes-Benz M-Class stands apart from many other four-wheel-drive SUVs by using a four-wheel adaptation of the company's proven electronic traction control to help ensure that the driving power translates into control. Seamlessly integrated with both Electronic Stability Program (ESP) and the antilock brakes, 4-ETS+ monitors each wheel for the first sign of wheel slip, and then individually brakes a slipping wheel to maintain the balance of power, or reduce excess torque. By continuously ensuring that power goes to the wheels with grip, 4-ETS+ can help get you moving, even if only one wheel has traction. The M-Class also provides downhill speed regulation, a hill-start assist feature, and a one-button off-road program that automatically recalibrates the traction system, ABS and transmission for low-traction conditions.

The original M-Class pioneered 4-wheel independent suspension in an SUV, and the new generation raises that dynamic standard to an even higher level, combining new unit-body construction with a multilink suspension that has been refined to deliver a smoother ride and greater comfort. The optional height adjustable Airmatic suspension — with our Adaptive Damping System that offers three different shock absorber settings — adds further refinement to the handling of the new M-Class, on-road or off.

Safety

The Mercedes-Benz engineers who undertook the design of the second-generation M-Class re-examined and analyzed every component. One of the most dramatic departures from the original design is the structural frame. Like our passenger cars, the new M-Class features an exceptionally strong, lightweight and rigid monocoque body structure.

Continuing the Mercedes-Benz commitment to occupant safety, the 2006 M-Class will come standard with two-stage adaptive air bags for the driver and front passenger, curtain side air bags and rear side air bags. A rollover sensor can activate the belt tensioner and curtain air bags if the vehicle senses an imminent rollover.

The 2006 M-Class. Coming soon.