

## Driving Instructions

### Power assistance

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

### Brakes

#### Caution!

When driving down long and steep grades, relieve the brakes by shifting into "3", "2" or "B". This helps prevent overheating of the brakes and reduces brake pad wear. Do not exceed engine speed limits (see page 62).

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

#### Warning!

**After driving in heavy rain for some time without applying the brakes or through water deep enough to wet brake components, the first braking action may be somewhat reduced and increased pedal pressure may be necessary. Be sure to maintain a safe distance from vehicles 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 straight road. Apply brake lightly until a slight drag on the wheels is felt. Keep applying brake for about 10 seconds while pulling the release knob out before releasing the 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. Perform the procedure in the previous paragraph only when the road is clear of other traffic.**

#### Caution!

Resting your foot on the brake pedal will cause excessive and premature wear of the brake pads.

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

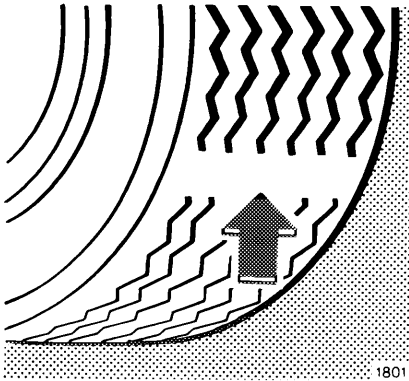
If the parking brake is released and the brake warning lamp in the instrument cluster stays on, the brake fluid level in the reservoir is too low.

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 and brake fluid recommended by MERCEDES-BENZ.

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.



## Tires

Tread wear indicators (TWI) are required by law. These indicators are located in six places on the tread circumference and become visible at a depth of approx. 2 mm ( $\frac{1}{16}$  in), at which point the tire is considered worn and should be replaced.

The tread wear indicator appears as a solid band across the tread.

### Warning!

**Do not allow your tires to wear down too far. With less than 3 mm ( $\frac{1}{8}$  in) of tread, the adhesion properties on a wet road are sharply reduced.**

**Depending upon the weather and/or road surface (conditions), the traction varies widely.**

Specified tire pressure 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 and with new tires. Avoid track grooves in the road and apply brakes cautiously in the rain.

## Tire traction

The safe speed on a wet, snow covered or icy road is always lower than on a dry road.

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

### Warning!

**If ice has formed on the road, tire traction will be substantially reduced. Under such weather conditions, drive, steer and brake with extreme caution.**

We recommend M + S radial-ply tires for the winter season for all four wheels to insure normal balanced handling characteristics. On packed snow, they can reduce your stopping distance as compared with summer tires. Stopping distance, however, is still considerably greater than when the road is wet or dry.

## Parking

### **Warning!**

**To reduce the risk of personal injury as a result of vehicle movement, before turning off the engine and leaving the vehicle always:**

- 1. Keep foot on brake pedal.**
- 2. Firmly depress parking brake pedal.**
- 3. Move the selector lever to position "P".**
- 4. Slowly release brake pedal.**
- 5. Turn front wheels towards the road curb.**
- 6. Turn the key to steering lock position 0 and remove.**

### Note:

It is advisable to set the parking brake whenever leaving the vehicle. Also, when parking on hills, always apply the parking brake. In addition, move selector lever to position "P".

## Winter Driving Instructions

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 corrective steering action.

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 traveling 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 observing the safety rules in the previous paragraph.