

# Mercedes-Benz W108/109 V8: A Detailed Look at the 1960s Luxury Sedan with Buyer's Guide and Chassis Number Data



Mercedes-Benz, The 1960s, W108/109 V8 with buyer's guide and chassis number, data card explanation: From the 280SE 3.5 to the 300SEL 6.3, updated April 2024, with many recent color photos by Bernd S. Koehling

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The Mercedes-Benz W108 and W109, commonly known as the "Stroke 8," were a series of luxury sedans produced from 1965 to 1972. These vehicles marked a defining era in automotive history, combining elegant styling, cutting-edge technology, and unparalleled performance. The W108 and W109 V8 models, powered by potent V8 engines, stand out as particularly notable variants in this iconic lineup.

## Design and Features

The Mercedes-Benz W108/109 V8 exuded elegance and sophistication. Its sleek and elongated body, adorned with intricate chrome accents, captured

the essence of the 1960s design aesthetic. The spacious interior provided ample room for passengers, featuring luxurious upholstery, wood paneling, and state-of-the-art amenities.



Innovative engineering was evident throughout the W108/109 V8. The independent suspension system ensured a smooth and comfortable ride, while the advanced braking system provided exceptional stopping power. The vehicles also incorporated safety features such as crumple zones and collapsible steering columns, demonstrating Mercedes-Benz's commitment to occupant protection.

## **Performance**

The heart of the Mercedes-Benz W108/109 V8 lay in its powerful V8 engines. The 3.5-liter V8, initially introduced in the 300 SEL, delivered an impressive 200 horsepower. In 1969, a larger 4.5-liter V8 became available, offering even more potent performance with its 230 horsepower output.



These engines were renowned for their smoothness, refinement, and durability. They propelled the W108/109 V8 to impressive speeds, making it one of the fastest sedans of its era. The vehicles' agile handling and responsive steering further enhanced the driving experience.

## **Legacy and Impact**

The Mercedes-Benz W108/109 V8 left a lasting legacy in the automotive world. Its combination of luxury, performance, and advanced engineering set new standards for the luxury sedan market. These vehicles were highly sought after by discerning buyers and celebrities alike, becoming symbols of status and exclusivity.



Today, the W108/109 V8 remains highly collectible among classic car enthusiasts. Its timeless design, exceptional build quality, and historical significance make it a prized possession for discerning collectors.

## **Buyer's Guide**

If you're considering acquiring a Mercedes-Benz W108/109 V8, there are several factors to keep in mind to ensure a wise investment:

- **Condition:** Inspect the vehicle thoroughly for any signs of rust, damage, or mechanical issues. A comprehensive pre-purchase inspection by a qualified mechanic is highly recommended.
- **Originality:** Look for vehicles that retain their original components, including the engine, transmission, and interior. Original paint and upholstery are highly sought after.
- **Mileage:** Consider the vehicle's mileage and maintenance history. Lower mileage vehicles are generally more valuable, but a well-maintained vehicle with higher mileage can still be a sound investment.
- **Documentation:** Request service records, registration documents, and any other relevant documentation to verify the vehicle's history and authenticity.
- **Price:** Research the market to determine a fair price based on the vehicle's condition, originality, mileage, and documentation. Be prepared to negotiate and consider the cost of potential repairs or restoration.

By following these guidelines, you can increase your chances of finding a well-preserved and authentic Mercedes-Benz W108/109 V8 that meets your expectations and budget.

### **Chassis Number Data**

The chassis number of a Mercedes-Benz W108/109 V8 provides valuable information about its production details and specifications. Here are the key

sections to decipher:

- **Manufacturer Code:** The first three digits identify the manufacturer, in this case "108" for Mercedes-Benz.
- **Model Code:** The fourth and fifth digits indicate the model series, "08" for the W108 and "09" for the W109.
- **Body Style Code:** The sixth and seventh digits represent the body style, "04" for the 300 SEL sedan and "05" for the 300 SE sedan.
- **Engine Code:** The eighth and ninth digits denote the engine type, "98" for the 3.5-liter V8 and "99" for the 4.5-liter V8.
- **Plant Code:** The tenth and eleventh digits indicate the production plant where the vehicle was assembled, such as "01" for Sindelfingen.
- **Serial Number:** The remaining six to eight digits represent the unique serial number of the vehicle within its production run.

By understanding the chassis number data, you can verify the authenticity of the vehicle and trace its production history.

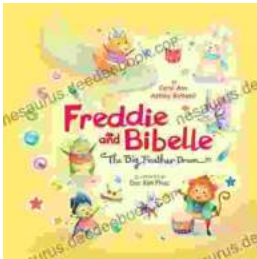
The Mercedes-Benz W108/109 V8 remains an automotive icon, embodying the pinnacle of luxury and performance in the 1960s. Its timeless design, cutting-edge technology, and impressive performance continue to



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