

Mercedes-Benz B180 W246

2011-2018 · 1.6 M270 turbocharged petrol (122 hp) · 7G-DCT or 6-speed manual

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Est. annual maintenance cost: €650-1,250

Date _____ Mileage _____ Price _____ Seller _____

What matters most: Manual or automatic? The 7G-DCT dual-clutch gearbox is the biggest single risk. Manual variants avoid it entirely and are considerably more reliable overall.

BEFORE THE VIEWING

Service records and oil intervals

Ask for full service history before visiting. The M270 engine needs oil changes every 10,000-15,000 km, not the factory 25,000 km. Longer intervals accelerate timing chain wear.

Recall status (safety-critical)

Five recalls cover this generation, including Takata airbags and a starter motor fire risk (2015-2017 cars). Contact a Mercedes dealer with the VIN to confirm all are completed.

Gearbox oil change history

For 7G-DCT automatics, ask whether gearbox oil has ever been changed. Many owners treated it as sealed for life. Cars with no gearbox oil change before 100,000 km are higher risk.

AT THE CAR

Tyres and exterior condition

Standard size is 205/55R16. Check tread depth and sidewall date codes (four-digit number, e.g. 2219 = week 22 of 2019). Uneven front wear can point to worn suspension bushings.

Cold start engine rattle

The engine must be fully cold for this check. Listen for a metallic chattering sound in the first 5-10 seconds. A brief tick is normal, but rattling lasting beyond 3 seconds points to timing chain tensioner wear.

Oil leaks and burnt smell

Open the bonnet and look around the top of the engine for oil seepage near the valve cover. A burnt oil smell from the engine bay can point to gasket material leaking onto the exhaust manifold.

Engine temperature gauge

After a 15-minute drive, the gauge should sit steadily at normal operating temperature. If it stays low or fluctuates, the thermostat housing (buried at the bottom of the engine) may have failed.

DURING THE DRIVE

7G-DCT gearbox smoothness

Drive in stop-and-go traffic for at least 10 minutes. Watch for jerking when pulling away from a stop, vibrations between 20-40 km/h, or hesitation during gear changes. These point to clutch pack wear.

Electronic parking brake

Apply and release the electronic parking brake several times. It should engage and release smoothly with no dashboard warnings. Stuck or slow response can point to a faulty actuator motor (€300-700).

Electrical systems check

Test all windows, mirrors, and the infotainment system. The W246 has a main relay under the floor near the gear shifter that can corrode and cause sudden total power loss. Any electrical glitches are worth noting.

NOTES

THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

Compact MPV from Mercedes-Benz, built 2011-2018. The M270 engine is generally solid, but the 7G-DCT automatic is a known weak point. Manual versions are notably more reliable.

KNOWN WEAK POINTS

7G-DCT gearbox wear

Clutch pack or mechatronics failure
€900-3,000

Timing chain tensioner

Stretch and rattle, mostly pre-2015
€900-1,800

Thermostat housing

Buried location, engine runs cold
€400-800

Valve cover gasket leak

Oil drips onto exhaust manifold
€200-400

Electronic parking brake

Actuator sticks or shows warning
€300-700

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