

Mercedes-Benz C220d W205

2014-2021 · 2.1 OM651 / 2.0 OM654 4-cylinder turbodiesel (170-194 hp)

Est. annual maintenance cost: €950-1,750

Date _____ Mileage _____ Price _____ Seller _____

What matters most: Pre-facelift (2014-2018) uses the OM651, facelift (2018+) uses the OM654. The OM654 has a front-mounted timing chain and fewer known issues, but a shorter track record.

BEFORE THE VIEWING

Recall status (6 known recalls)

The W205 has six safety recalls, including a coolant pump fire risk (2017-2021 models). Contact Mercedes-Benz with the VIN beforehand to confirm all have been completed.

Service records and oil intervals

Full service history is important on this car. Confirm oil was changed at or below 20,000 km intervals. Skipped or stretched intervals accelerate timing chain wear on the OM651.

AdBlue and NOx sensor history

NOx sensor failure is the most common issue on this car. Worth asking the seller upfront whether any AdBlue warnings or sensor replacements have occurred.

AT THE CAR

Tyres and exterior condition

Standard size is 225/50 R17. Rear tyres wear faster on rear-wheel-drive models. Check tread depth, age (four-digit date code on sidewall), and uneven wear across all four corners.

Cold start and timing chain

The engine must be completely cold for this check. Listen for a rattling sound in the first 30 seconds after startup. A brief rattle that fades can point to timing chain tensioner wear on the OM651.

Injector area (black death check)

Open the bonnet and look around the fuel injectors for black crusty carbon buildup or a diesel smell. Dark deposits around the injector wells can point to leaking copper seals.

Dashboard warnings and AdBlue

With ignition on, check for any AdBlue messages, engine warning lights, or a countdown warning about engine restart prevention. These point to NOx sensor or AdBlue pump faults.

DURING THE DRIVE

Steering feel and noise

Turn the wheel fully in both directions at low speed. Listen for grinding or whining sounds, which can point to wear in the electric steering rack. Note any inconsistency in power assistance.

Gearbox smoothness (9G-Tronic)

The 9-speed automatic should shift smoothly through all gears. Pay attention to any hesitation, jerking between low gears, or delay when pulling away from a stop.

Engine response under load

Accelerate firmly from 50 km/h in a higher gear. Hesitation or surging can point to EGR valve carbon buildup or swirl flap actuator issues, especially above 100,000 km.

NOTES

THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

Diesel C-Class, built 2014-2021. Solid overall, but NOx sensors and emissions components are the main weak spots. Full service history and regular highway use make a noticeable difference.

KNOWN WEAK POINTS

NOx sensor / AdBlue

Sensor corrosion, AdBlue pump failure
€600-2,000

Timing chain (OM651)

Rear-mounted chain stretches over time
€1,200-2,500

Injector seal leak

Copper washers degrade, carbon buildup
€300-1,500

EGR valve carbon buildup

Clogs from short trips and city driving
€400-1,200

DPF clogging

Needs regular highway driving to regen
€300-2,500

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