GENERAL

1995 mercedes c 280

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction

When you think of mid 1990s German engineering, the **1995 Mercedes C 280** often stands out as a symbol of understated luxury and dependable performance. Introduced as part of the first generation of the C Class, this model bridged the gap between the compact A Class and the more upscale E Class, offering drivers a refined driving experience without the high price tag of a full size Mercedes. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore every facet of the 1995 C 280—from its technical specifications and performance characteristics to interior comforts, exterior styling, and practical maintenance tips. Whether you're a prospective buyer, a seasoned enthusiast, or simply curious about this iconic sedan, this article will give you a deep dive into what makes the 1995 Mercedes C /280 a timeless classic.

Overview of the 1995 Mercedes C /280

The 1995 Mercedes C 280 was part of the first generation C Class (W202) that debuted in 1993. It was available as a sedan, coupe, and convertible, though the sedan was the most popular body style. The C 280 was powered by a 2.8 liter inline six engine, a hallmark of Mercedes' commitment to smooth, refined power delivery. With a 4 speed automatic transmission (some markets offered a 5 speed manual), the C 280 delivered a blend of performance, comfort, and efficiency that appealed to a broad range of drivers.

Key Highlights

- Engine: 2.8 L inline six, 200 hp
- Transmission: 4 speed automatic (5 speed manual in some markets)
- Drive Type: Front wheel drive
- Top Speed: Approximately 155 mph (250 km/h)
- 0 60 mph: Around 8.5 seconds
- Fuel Economy: 15–17 mpg city / 20–22 mpg highway

Technical Specifications

Below is a detailed breakdown of the 1995 Mercedes C 280's core technical parameters. These figures help illustrate why the car was celebrated for its balance of performance and refinement.

Engine and Powertrain

The heart of the 1995 C 280 is its 2.8 liter M112 inline six. The engine features a single overhead camshaft and produces 200 horsepower at 5,800 rpm, with a torque peak of 200 lb ft at 4,000 rpm. The powertrain is paired with a 4 speed automatic transmission (optional 5 speed manual), which delivers smooth gear changes and efficient power delivery.

Dimensions and Weight

- Wheelbase: 2,730 mm (107.5 in)
- Length: 4,605 mm (181.3 in)
- Width: 1,720 mm (67.7 in)
- Height: 1,440 mm (56.7 in)

- Curb Weight: 1,590–1,650 kg (3,500–3,640 lb)

Performance Metrics

- 0–60 mph: 8.5 seconds
- Top Speed: 155 mph (250 km/h)
- Fuel Efficiency: 15–17 mpg city / 20–22 mpg highway (varies by market)

Performance and Handling

Driving the 1995 Mercedes C 280 feels like a conversation between driver and machine. The inline six delivers a silky-smooth torque curve, ensuring that acceleration is both linear and responsive. The car's front wheel drive layout offers predictable handling, especially in light rain or dry pavement. Coupled with a well-tuned suspension, the C /280 provides a comfortable ride that absorbs bumps without sacrificing steering precision.

Acceleration and Speed

With 200 horsepower, the C 280 can sprint from 0 to 60 mph in about 8.5 seconds—a respectable figure for a luxury sedan of its era. The top speed, electronically limited to 155 mph, showcases the engine's robust performance capabilities while maintaining safety and control.

Ride Comfort

The 1995 C 280's suspension setup uses MacPherson struts at the front and a torsion beam at the rear. This combination delivers a stable, composed ride, especially on rough roads. The seats are upholstered in high quality leather, providing ample support for both short commutes and long trips.

Interior Features and Comfort

The cabin of the 1995 Mercedes C 280 exemplifies the brand's focus on luxury and craftsmanship. Even though technology in the mid 90s was not as advanced as today, the car still offers a range of features that made it a premium choice for its time.

Seating and Materials

All seats are made from premium leather, with optional heated seats in many markets. The front seats have adjustable lumbar support, and the rear seats provide ample legroom for adults. The interior trim includes wood veneers and brushed aluminum accents, giving the cabin a sophisticated look.

Infotainment and Controls

The 1995 C 280 features a basic but functional infotainment system: a 6 inch analog radio tuner, CD player, and an AM/FM radio. The climate control is manual, with separate controls for front and rear passengers. While modern infotainment features like Bluetooth or touchscreen displays are absent, the car's controls are intuitive and ergonomically placed.

Storage and Practicality

- Trunk Capacity: 11.4 cubic feet (322 liters)
- Front and rear cupholders
- Fold down rear seats for additional cargo space

Exterior Design and Styling

The 1995 Mercedes C 280 carries the classic C Class silhouette: a sloping roofline, a distinctive front grille, and a

sleek, understated aesthetic. The design reflects Mercedes' philosophy of "design for life" – a blend of timeless elegance and functional practicality.

Front Fascia

The iconic Mercedes grille is flanked by rectangular headlights that feature a subtle LED accent (in later models). The bumper is robust, with integrated fog lamps in some markets. The overall front profile exudes a sense of confidence without being overly aggressive.

Side Profile

The side of the 1995 C 280 showcases a clean, aerodynamic line that emphasizes the car's compact yet spacious interior. The doors have a subtle chrome trim that adds a touch of luxury. The wheel arches are wide enough to accommodate 16 inch alloy wheels, which were standard for the model.

Rear Design

At the rear, the car features a modest spoiler and a rear bumper that houses a functional exhaust system. The taillights are rectangular and flush with the body, providing a cohesive look that complements the front fascia. The trunk lid opens with a smooth, quiet lift, enhancing the overall premium feel.

Engine & Transmission Details

The 1995 Mercedes C 280's powertrain is one of its most celebrated aspects. Let's dive deeper into the engine and transmission specifics.

M112 Inline Six Engine

Key features of the M112 engine include:

- Displacement: 2.8 liters
- Configuration: Inline six
- Valvetrain: Single overhead camshaft
- Power: 200 hp @ 5,800 rpm
- Torque: 200 lb ft @ 4,000 rpm
- Fuel System: Fuel injection (multi-point)
- Cooling: Water cooled with electric water pump

Transmission Options

Most 1995 C 280 models came with a 4 speed automatic transmission, which was known for its smooth shifting and durability. In certain markets, a 5 speed manual transmission was offered, appealing to drivers who preferred a more engaged driving experience. The automatic's torque converter was optimized for both low end torque and high speed cruising efficiency.

Fuel Economy and Efficiency

The 1995 Mercedes C 280's fuel economy reflects its status as a mid size luxury sedan. While not as efficient as modern hybrids, it delivered respectable figures for its era.

City and Highway MPG

- City: 15–17 mpg (7.5–8.5 L/100 km)
- Highway: 20–22 mpg (10.6–11.3 L/100 km)

Factors Influencing Fuel Consumption

Driving habits, maintenance, and road conditions all impact fuel economy. Regular oil changes, timely spark plug replacements, and keeping tires properly inflated can help maintain optimal fuel efficiency.

Maintenance & Common Issues

Like any classic vehicle, the 1995 Mercedes C 280 requires attentive care to keep it running smoothly. Understanding common maintenance tasks and potential issues can save owners time and money.

Routine Maintenance Checklist

1. Oil and filter change every 5,000–7,500 miles (8,000–12,000 km)
2. Transmission fluid replacement every 30,000–60,000 miles (48,000–96,000 km)
3. Brake pad and rotor inspection every 10,000 miles (16,000 km)
4. Coolant flush every 40,000 miles (64,000 km)
5. Tire rotation every 6,000 miles (10,000 km)

Common Problems

- Engine Misfires: Often due to worn spark plugs or faulty ignition coils.
- Transmission Slipping: Can be caused by worn clutch plates (manual) or worn torque converter (automatic).
- Electrical Issues: Aging wiring harnesses may lead to intermittent dashboard lighting problems.
- Cooling System Leaks: Radiator or heater core leaks are common as the car ages.
- Suspension Wear: MacPherson strut bushings and rear torsion beam components may need replacement after extended use.

Buying Tips for the 1995 Mercedes C /280

If you’re considering purchasing a 1995 Mercedes C 280, here are key factors to evaluate to ensure you get a reliable, well maintained vehicle.

Vehicle History

Ask for a comprehensive service record. A vehicle with consistent maintenance logs is more likely to be in good condition. Verify ownership history to rule out multiple owners or title issues.

Inspection Checklist

- Check for rust on the undercarriage and wheel arches.
- Inspect the engine bay for oil leaks or cracked hoses.
- Test all electrical components, including lights, windows, and climate control.
- Verify the operation of the transmission by shifting through all gears.
- Inspect the tires for tread wear and sidewall damage.

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