

Vision B Compact Sports Tourer



Vision B concept vehicle



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The Concept

Take the essence of touring, the athletic abilities of a European sports sedan and the comfort of a luxury sedan, and combine it with the versatility of a sport utility to create an entirely new kind of vehicle, the Compact Sports Tourer. Breathtaking, powerful and dynamic design, innovative amenities and useful technology now make possible a vehicle that can excel at an unprecedented range of owner needs without sacrificing aesthetics.

The Mercedes-Benz Vision B concept was introduced at the Paris Auto Show in 2004. The first B-Class 5-seater production vehicle will be unveiled at the Geneva Auto Show in March and will be available in Canadian showrooms this fall.

Production vehicle images were not available at the time of publication and will vary from the Vision B concept.

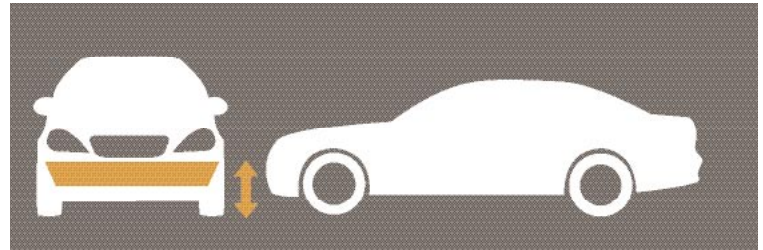


Innovative **Versatile**
Dynamic Unique

Sneak Preview of the 2006 B-Class

Preliminary details of the 2006 B-Class include a choice of two different powerplants: A 2.0-litre inline-4 and if power is more your style, consider the lively 2.0-litre inline-4 turbo engine. Both models will be equipped with a manual transmission as standard equipment or an optional automatic Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT).

The interior will offer a multifunction steering wheel that will let you change CD tracks, adjust the audio volume or even see how far you can go before a fuel stop. Brushed aluminium trim will enhance the instrument cluster and centre console while a new high-tech material that resembles high-quality sportswear fabric will cover the dash, seats and door panels. And thanks to a height-adjustable load compartment floor, an asymmetrically divided, folding and removable rear seat unit plus an optional removable front passenger seat, the B-Class will give you the flexibility you need with up to 2,250 litres of cargo room.



Sandwich-type construction

The Mercedes-Benz Safety Factor

One of the major advantages of the upcoming B-Class is the sandwich concept developed by Mercedes-Benz. Thanks to the space-saving arrangement of the engine and transmission partly in front of and partly beneath the passenger cell, the B-Class will offer the interior spaciousness of larger sedans and wagons despite its compact external dimensions. But space isn't the only benefit of the sandwich concept as it also acts as the centrepiece of the safety concept in the B-Class. Arranging the engine and transmission in an inclined position partly in front and partly beneath the passenger cell makes a greater effective front-end length available for crash deformation. During a severe frontal impact, the drive unit is designed to slide further under the car instead of pushing its way into the occupant cell. Moreover, the sandwich concept has significant advantages in the event of a lateral collision because the occupants are seated approximately 200 millimetres higher and therefore above the impact zone.

To complement these safety innovations, the B-Class will also be equipped with two-stage adaptive front air bags and newly developed head-thorax side air bags. The B-Class will also offer an enhanced version of Electronic Stability Program (ESP) which will help with steering corrections and provide the driver with better road contact.



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