

2013/2014 Mercedes-BENZ [W212] E350 BlueTEC AMG SPORT 7-Gtronic Estate REVIEW

Overview

The W212 is the most practical and sensible estate of all when compared to Audi A6 and BMW 5 Series, without doubt. The E-Class estate has traditionally played it straight down the line. For 2013 though, it got a truckload of added style and toys, courtesy of the most comprehensive mid-life facelift in Mercedes' history. All models now get the coupe-style front end, the rear end is smoother and the interior is even better finished and specified than ever before (and that's saying something).

Two things remain, though: the truly humungous load bay, big enough to even make this a seven-seater if you so wish, plus the fact that it is built to an uncommonly high standard. Seriously, this car feels like it will last for a lifetime. No wonder German taxi firms love them.

Speedy exuberant drivers looking for the ultimate in sharp handling should look elsewhere, as it only takes a short stint behind the wheel to realise that this Mercedes has been developed with total comfort in mind. All versions get adaptive dampers as standard, which help make the E-Class one of the most comfortable estate cars money can buy. Estate models have self-levelling rear air suspension too, so handling isn't compromised when you're carrying heavy loads. Better still, low noise levels and a perfect driving position make it a superb long distance cruiser. Yet with its slick steering, decent body control and rear-wheel-drive chassis, the big Mercedes can be hustled through tightest corners with surprising pace and composure, as well inducing sweat to the most ardent boy racer in his Beemer.



Driving - What is it like on the road?

The E-Class has always been about comfort rather than dynamic aggression. Even with the 2013 revisions, which gave it a lot of extra focus, the W212 has long been the best at performing limo-like duties in a mid-sized footprint, and these are abilities that are also enhanced in the latest version. More softly sprung than the Beemer, it's a bit wallowy in the corners by comparison, but that's because it's geared for comfort. It washes over a manhole cover or pothole like it was scarcely even there and smoothes out the ripples on faster roads like a warp speed steamroller. Cruising on a motorway in virtual silence, enveloped in the leather seats, with barely a vibration from the road surface below, the

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temptation is to simply close your eyes and drift off. Or at least it would be if the standard "Attention Assist" tiredness warning system wasn't ready to sound an alarm the instant you do so. There are few more relaxing cars to drive this side of a Rolls-Royce, especially if you opt for the optional Airmatic air suspension. Even on the twistiest back roads, the big E-class remains composed and flat while cornering. All the diesel models are particularly well-balanced. The steering on all models is precise, and in its own way, the E-class is enormously satisfying to drive. The seven-speed automatic gearbox is excellent, delivering smooth shifts at the right time.

If you're not seeking the unhinged E63 AMG models, the Pick is the V6 diesel engine in the E350 and you'll be able to summon what feels like vast reserves of power, as if from a ship's engine room, sending the car surging forward smoothly. It fits the car's character perfectly, although there's a price to pay with an official fuel economy figure of 47.9mpg or closer to 40mpg in real-world driving.

On the inside - Layout, finish and space!

The interior always had plenty of integrity; now, with tasteful trim upgrades throughout, it also looks and feels like a junior S-Class, too. It is spacious throughout and rear passengers will feel cosseted by such a clear focus on comfort. Because of its rear-wheel-drive configuration, however, there is the issue of a meaty transmission tunnel taking up floor space, something that impinges on a third rear passenger. But the estate boot will take up to 1,950 litres. That's 300 more than an A6 or 5 Series BMW. It's not just the exterior of the E-class that was updated in 2013; the interior received a redesign, too, which has tidied it up and improved quality. The car doesn't just feel like it has returned to the hewn from granite Mercedes



standard, last seen in the 20th century, but the evidence suggests that it has. The previous version of the E-class has achieved good reliability scores and this should continue with the current car.

The dashboard display isn't as simple to operate as those offered by Mercedes' German rivals but it's fairly easy to use once you are familiar with it. A dial in the centre console is used to select functions on the screen at the top of the dashboard, controlling sat-nav, phone and radio functions among other things.

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The most impressive part of the cabin has nothing to do with technology but is all about its sheer space, with generous legroom for rear seat passengers. Put the seats down in the estate and there's space for 1,950 litres of luggage, or in other words, everything including the kitchen sink. Again, it's around 300 litres larger than the estate versions of the Audi A6, BMW 5-series and Jaguar XF. Mercedes offers several options to fill it, including two (small) rear-facing seats, to make the E-class into a seven-seater, as well as storage options to keep luggage in place instead of wallowing around the cavernous boot.

It's easy to get carried away with the options list, which offers equipment ranging from a larger fuel tank to heated rear seats. The 360-degree camera, which offers a bird's-eye view of the car's surroundings, is useful for avoiding parking bumps. The ventilated seats, which are fitted with cooling fans, make a big difference on long journeys. You may struggle to resist the optional keyless entry system, which now allows hands-free access to the boot. You open it by waving your foot underneath the bumper, leaving your key in your pocket or bag.



The E-class has a five-star Euro NCAP safety rating. As well as two ISOFIX child seat mounts, safety equipment includes nine airbags as standard, as well as a collision warning system, tiredness monitor and automatic emergency braking. Sport models have AMG styling, bespoke seats, steering wheel and pedals, variable-ratio steering, upgraded braking and suspension, plus 18-inch AMG alloy wheels. On top of all that, the facelift in 2013 meant a host of new safety features. Collision Prevention Assist will brake for you if the car senses there's a crash imminent, which mitigates or prevents accidents. There's an all-new LED lighting system which features functionality which does away with fog lights, automatically corners and can move to react to what the car is doing as well as automatically dipping the high beams. The E-Class estate provides far greater load volume than any estate car rival. With the rear seats in place it offers an incredible 695 litres of luggage space. The rear seats fold almost flat and extends potential

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luggage volume to 1,950 litres to roof height. There is also the option of rear-facing child seats in the luggage compartment. They fold flat and have no impact on luggage space.

Owning - Running costs and reliability

As with all Mercs, you can only hope to offset the irritating extra initial expense over and above its equally accomplished rivals with the strong residual values that this brand enjoys. The low-CO2 engines are reasonably economical though – provided you haven't bought the E 63 AMG. If you have, then running costs are an irrelevance. But they're worth it.

Verdict - Final thoughts

Vast Mercedes E-Class Estate is one of most practical and classy load-luggers money can buy. The E-Class is one of Mercedes-Benz's most storied models. Robust, stylishly understated and practical, it has traditionally been as popular with taxi drivers as company directors, and more than 13 million have been sold over multiple generations.

Key rivals in the class include the Audi A6, BMW 5 Series and Jaguar XF. Whilst the BMW and particularly the Jaguar, focus on driving instead of comfort. For enjoyment however, the new E-Class plays the luxury card, offering a level of in-cabin style and luxury with elegance no other car in the sector can match.

Mercedes-Benz E-Class Estate (2013 - 2016)

E350 BlueTEC AMG Sport 5d Tip AutoSpecs & Dimensions

Costs		Braked Towing Weight	2100kg
Fuel consumption	46 mpg	Dimensions	
Insurance group	44	Fuel Capacity	80 litres
Annual road tax	£185 (Band G)	Weight	1955kg
Performance		Length	4905mm
Power	248 bhp	Width	2071mm
Top Speed	152 mph	Height -	
0-60 mph	6.7 secs	Wheelbase	2874mm
Torque	620 Nm, 457 ft-lb	Turning Circle	11m
CO2 Emissions	159 g/km	Engine	
Euro Emissions	6	Engine Size	2987cc
Miles Per Tank	809 miles	Cylinders	6
Cabin & Luggage		Valves	24
Doors	5	Fuel Type	Diesel
Seats	5	Transmission	Automatic
Luggage Capacity	650 litres	Gearbox	7 Speed Tip Auto
Towing Weight	750kg	Drivetrain	Rear wheel drive



2013[63] Mercedes-BENZ E350 BlueTEC AMG SPORT Turbo-DIESEL 248-BHP 620-Nm FacelIFT[W212] 5Door Estate 7-G TRONIC

One lady Owner with F/MB/S/H. and 27000 warranted miles. Finished in stunning SPINELL Blue Metallic with lavishly sumptuous complementing White Beige Twin SticheD soft Leather interior with striking covering of special aluminium trim pieces with longitudinal grain and exclusive AMG floor-mats. This brutal yet beautiful, lively and sybaritic phantom-in-motion with a unique style with elegance is the true and undisputed Sindelfingen stealthy estate of all time. It has a distinct image of exclusiveness that goes far beyond the imagination. Socrates once said; "Opinion is nothing more than ignorance masquerading as knowledge". How right he was. This Mercedes-Benz E350 BlueTEC AMG Sport Turbo-DIESEL Estate is such an impressive vehicle with its sleek looks of a coupe styled front-end coupled with the practicality of a five-door estate that even cynical motoring journalists start reaching for their Advanced Superlatives Handbook. When it was new, this magnificent piece of engineering creation with its 3.0 litre Turbo diesel and built-in extras believed to have cost well over £50K with its high end options and is arguably one of the most luxurious estates - bar none. It combines awesome power with velvet-like refinement, provides ride comfort that is in the magic carpet class and offers more standard equipment than you would find in a top 5 star hotel. It seems almost churlish to mention such standard fitments as air-conditioning, automatic transmission and remote central locking when it has creature comforts that extend to seats with heating and three memory settings together with steering wheel and the mirrors all automatically moving to your pre-set requirements as soon as you sit in your driving seat. Find an open stretch of motorway, floor the throttle-pedal of this sleek torquey Turbo-DIESEL and you'll soon know what it means to 'TURBO-BOOST' the time/space continuum. There's a miniscule pause and a gentle jerking sensation as the seven-speed gearbox kicks down and the turbo spools up of this powerful and torquey prime red meat as she roars like the Minotaur gargling rocks. And then this gorgeous Estate launches itself at the horizon with a single, seamless blast of forward thrust. Any doubt that this sleek and elegant design flamboyance can obliterate time with acceleration dissipates the moment you watch the speedo arc gracefully past 152 mph, it would send this stunner on to speeds beyond imagination.... I guess that's what happens when Sindelfingen decide to stuff a V6-OM642 DIESEL Power Plant with Turbo-CHARGER and Inter-COOLER developing 248 horses and 620 Nm of brutal torque under the bonnet of such a car. Even in these horsepower mad times, it's enough shove to put Mercedes' 3.0-litre V6-powered estate with engine increased performance [M014] with Exhaust Gas cleaning with Euro-5 Technology, resulting in a sprint from 0 to 60mph in around 6.8 seconds. Her extensive specification includes Collision Warning System with Active Brake Intervention/ Radar/SENSOR controlled Mercedes-BENZ Automated HandsFree "ActiveParkAssist" Self-Parking System - Please go to URL link for a demonstration of ActiveParkAssist System=>> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W--J-GRFA-Y> / SAT-NAV Pro on NTG4.5/ Reverse Colour Camera with bending guide lines/ Front Colour Camera with Aut-Switch/ DIGI-TV/ Sound system with MultiMedia interface/ Digi-DAB Radio/ Carbon fibre Vinyl protection wrapping to front and rear skirts / DVD movie player/ Front & Rear parking sensors with colour displays/ Park speed sensitive power assisted steering/ Bluetooth GSM Phone controlled via COMAND interface/ Full AMG STYLING Package with Side-SKIRTS and Front Spoiler/ SPORTS Suspension/ CD/DVD player with MP3 facility and music register memory card slot/ ABS+ BAS+SBC/ Comfort running gear/ Auto-dimming interior & exterior mirrors/ AMG Sports Package/ 5-Twin Spoke 18" Anthracite/Bright Silver Diamond-Cut Highly Polished AMG Alloys with Hi-Performance tyres/ 5-Seat Pack/ Tinted glass/ Automatic High Beam Switch (IHC)/ Software Control for static curve illumination/ Carbon fibre Vinyl protection wrapping to door mirror surrounds /SHIFT by WIRE/ Electric windows with 1-touch facility/ Emergency e-Call system EUROPE/ 6-CD/DVD multi-changer/ ESP + Sport SpeedTRONIC Tempomat/ Rain Sensing wipers/ 7-G Tronic Auto-transmission with F-1 Type Paddles/ Adaptive brake lights/ Electric OPEN / CLOSE tailgate/ Tyre pressure sensors/ Height + Reach + Rake adjustment steering column/ Luxury Multi-Function steering wheel/ Theft Protection System/ SPECIAL version FX/ AMG Floor Mats/ LED daytime running Lights/ Interior Safe-GUARD with Highten Teft Protection System/ AMG Edition Black badge to front dash and Front grill, Extras list on this car goes on & on.. With superior build integrity, masses of airbags, features such as traction control, anti-lock brakes and Mercedes-Benz' own Brake Assist system it is hard to imagine being in any safer form of transport. In driving terms, this Mercedes-Benz is absolutely impeccable. This sleek, warp-drive-enabled übercraft from the 25th century is a technological masterpiece pure and simple. With her aggressively sneering bending headlights and a shark-like lower grille she portrays such an aggressive stance that she is impossible to ignore by anyone especially as they see her approach them at speed in their rear view mirror..The interior ambience is exclusive and is further enhanced with lavishly sumptuous soft white cream leather seats, well laid-out controls and a generally imperious air. With the use of choice exclusive sporty trim and top grade supple leather trim, Mercedes-Benz has successfully created a drawing-room feel like no other. This, when coupled to impeccable German efficiency and pure functionality, is the creation of the superlative E350 BlueTEC AMG Sport Blue-EFFICIENCY Turbo-DIESEL 5 Door Estate. An incredible car with an unbeatable value. That is the ingenious of SINDELINGEN in living form, which is what makes an everyday reality of this Beauty with Driving Excellence. Why not be part of this incredibly enjoyable driving experience, and be part of Mercedes-Benz's world of luxury.

SPECIFICATION

MAKE:	Mercedes-BENZ
MODEL:	E350 BlueTEC AMG Sport TURBO-DIESEL 5Door Estate, 7 Speed Automatic
Registration NUMBER:	SD63 XFS
Date of First Registration:	21st December 2013
COLOUR [Exterior / Interior]:	SPINELL Blue METALLIC [585U]/Beige Leather [255A]
Number of Cylinders & TYPE:	M020/M014/M642/ v6 24 Valve, DOHC Turbo Diesel
Cylinder Capacity/Power/Torque:	2987 cc / 248 BHP - 185 kW / 457 lb ft / 620 Nm
Chassis/Frame NUMBER:	WDD2122262A945752
Engine NUMBER:	642852 41 528579
OIL Type:	CASTROL Edge FST [SAE 5W-30; MB Freigabe 229.31/229.51; ACEA C3]
FUEL Type:	Diesel [SHELL v-Power ONLY]

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DATA Card

No. owners: **1 Lady Owner**
Reg No. **SD63 XFS**
Date of Registration: **21/12/2013**
Vin No. **WDD2122262A945752**
Engine number: **642852 41 528579**
Fuel Type: **DIESEL**
Engine: **2987cc / V6 24v DOHC / Turbo-Diesel**
Power: **248-BHP / 185kW @3600rpm**
Torque: **620-Nm / 457.2 Lb Ft @1600rpm**
Acceleration: **0 to 60 mph in 6.7 seconds**
Top Speed: **152 mph**
Mileage: **27108 (Warranted)**
Service History: **Full/MB/S/H**
Colour: **COVELINE Blue Metallic [585U]**
Interior: **Beige Leather [255A]**
VAT Type: **Margin Vehicle**

Code-OPTIONS

- 05A - OIL OFFSET AMOUNT +500 ML OIL
- 1U2 - SNOW GRID
- 205B - OWNERS MANUAL AND SERVICE RECORD - ENGLISH
- 210A - LEATHER
- 211 - EPS STEERING (ELECTRIC STEERING)**
- 218 - REAR-VIEW CAMERA WITH BENDING GUIDE LINES**
- 235 - AUTO HANDSFREE ACTIVEPARKASSIST SELF-PARKING SYSTEM**
- 249 - INSIDE AND OUTSIDE MIRROR AUTOMATIC DIMMING**
- 255A- LEATHER - BEIGE**
- 255B- MB MOBILIO WITH DSB AND GGD**
- 258- COLLISION WARNING SYSTEM WITH ACTIVE BREAK INTERVATION**
- 275 - MEMORY PACKAGE (DRIVER SEAT, STRG. COL., MIRROR)**
- 277 - SPORTS STEERING WHEEL**
- 279 - ELECTRONIC GEAR RANGE SELECTION**
- 283B- AIRBAGLABLE - ENGLISH
- 287 - THROUGH-LOADING FEATURE**
- 291 - PELVIS AIRBAG (PELVISBAG)
- 294 - KNEE AIRBAG
- 309 - CUP HOLDER
- 335B- INSTRUMENT CLUSTER/HU LANGUAGE - ENGLISH
- 347 - EMERGENCY CALL SYSTEM ECALL EUROPE
- 35A - VGS D4-0, D3 PATTERN
- 427 - AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION 7-SPEED
- 428 - STEER.WHEEL GEARSHIFT BUTTONS/SHIFT PADDLE PAINTED**
- 461 - INSTRUMENT WITH MILES IND. AND ENGLISH LEGEND
- 474 - DIESEL PARTICULATE FILTER
- 477 - TIRE PRESSURE LOSS WARNER**
- 489 - AIRMATIC DUAL CONTROL / AIR SUSPENSION SEMI-ACTIVE**
- 4U4 - RADIATOR GRILLE WITH CENTER STAR**
- 502 - 3 YEARS OF MAP UPDATES FREE OF CHARGE**
- 512 - COMAND APS WITH DVD CHANGER**
- 518 - UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS INTERFACE (UCI)**
- 51U - BLACK FABRIC ROOF INTERIOR TRIM
- 537 - DIGITAL RADIO STANDARD DAB (DIGI. AUDIO BROADC.)**
- 537L - GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
- 551 - ANTI-THEFT/ANTI-BREAK-IN WARNING SYSTEM**
- 580 - AIR CONDITIONER**
- 585U- COVELINE BLUE - METALLIC FINISH**
- 5XXL - EUROPE
- 628 - AUTOMATIC HIGH BEAM SWITCH PLUS (IHC+)**
- 641 - DYNAMIC LED HEADLAMPS, LEFT-HAND TRAFFIC**
- 660 - AMG DOUBLE-SPOKE WHEELS 18" WITH MIXED TIRES**
- 666 - PRODUCT PROT.F.TRANSPORT VEH. W/O TIE-DOWN HOOKS

- 772 - AMG STYLING PACKAGE-FRONT SPOILER, SIDE SKIRT**
- 804 - YOM 23/1
- 817 - SIREN BRACKET FOR INCREASED THEFT PROTECTION
- 872 - REAR SEAT BENCH HEATING LEFT UND RIGHT**
- 873 - SEAT HEATER FOR LEFT AND RIGHT FRONT SEATS**
- 875 - HEATED SCREEN WASH SYSTEM**
- 882 - INTERIOR SAFEGUARD**
- 885 - HIGHTEN THEFT PROTECTION**
- 915 - FUEL TANK WITH GREATER CAPACITY - VOLUME 2
- 927 - EURO 6 TECHNOLOGY EXHAUST GAS CLEANING**
- 950 - AMG SPORTS PACKAGE**
- 954 - EQUIPMENT PACKAGE FOR AVANTGARDE VEHICLES**
- 968 - COC PAPER EURO6 TECH. W/O REGISTRATION CERT.PART 2
- 989 - IDENTIFICATION LABEL UNDER WINDSHIELD
- A20 - DIRECT START**
- A21 - SHIFT BY WIRE**
- A24 - JOINT FLANGE, 4-ARM 120
- A62 - FE TORQUE CONVERTER HOUSING 19
- A66 - FE CONVERTER 19 MM
- A89 - REDUCED-FRICTION
- A98 - TRANSMISSION SOFTWARE RETROFIT
- B03 - DIRECT START / ECO START/STOP FUNCTION**
- B09 - REFRIGERANT COMPRESSOR WITH MAGNETIC COUPLING
- B54 - MBCONNECT - REAL-TIME TRAFFIC DATA**
- F212- MODEL SERIES 212
- FS - COMBI - VEHICLE
- G903- TRANSMISSION CODE VERSION 03
- GA - AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION
- H79-TRIM PIECE- ALUMINUM W/ LONGIT.SECTION/TEXT.GRAIN**
- HA - REAR AXLE
- J52 - ADDITIONAL CODE FOR DAMPING MAT
- J5A - DSM: STAR1 FBS4 UPDATE
- J81 - JUNE RELEASE
- K11 - ADAPTIVE STOP LIGHT FLASHING
- K13 - CONTROL CODE FOR SERVICE INTERVAL 25000 KM**
- M014- ENGINE INCREASED PERFORMANCE**
- M019- SERVICE REPOSITIONED
- M020- BLUETEC**
- M30 - DISPLACEMENT 3.0 LITER
- M642- V6 DIESEL ENGINE OM642**
- P54 - THEFT PROTECTION PACKAGE**
- R - RIGHT-HAND STEERING
- R01 - SUMMER TIRES
- U01 - REAR BELT STATUS INDICATION**
- U18 - AUTOMATIC CHILD SEAT RECOGNITION (AKSE)**
- U26 - FLOOR MATS - AMG**
- U42 - DIESEL EXHAUST-TREATMENT BLUETEC SCR GENERATION 1
- U60 - PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION - ACTIVE ENGINE HOOD**
- U72 - DVD PLAYER WITH REGIONAL CODE 2, EUROPE, JAPAN
- V60 - SPEED- + LOADINDEX 97Y XL
- VL - FRONT AXLE HALF, LEFT
- VR - FRONT AXLE HALF, RIGHT
- RFT01- CFEF* PROTECTION TO SIDE SKIRTS**
- RFT02- FRONT CAMERA WITH AUTO-SWITCH**
- RFT03- CFEF* PROTECTION TO DOOR MIRRORS**
- RFT04- DIGI TV FOR FREE-VIEW DIGITAL BROADCASTS**
- RFT05- CFEF* PROTECTION TO BOOT-LID LEDGE**
- RFT06- AMG ALLOY CENTRE CAPS WITH AMG DUST CAPS**
- RFT07- CFEF* PROTECTION TO REAR BUMPER SECTIONS**
- RFT08- AMG EDITION BLACK CHROME BADGE TO FRONT GRILL**
- RFT09- CFEF* PROTECTION TO FRONT AIR INTAKES**
- RFT10- CFEF* PROTECTION TO FRONT BUMPER SECTIONS**