

# Mercedes S-350 CDI SE Executive L

## Sheer Luxury!!

There are more gadgets than you can shake a stick at in this car, such as dual 12-inch TFT screens in the dash, while the fact there isn't a single filament light bulb underlines these futuristic credentials. Plus, standard kit includes COMAND sat-nav and a mobile Internet hotspot.



However, it's the options that really impress. Go for Distronic Plus with Steer Assist and Stop & Go Pilot, and the S-Class can automatically follow the car in front in and steer to keep you in-lane on the motorway. Technically the car could drive itself, but for legal reasons it won't take your hands off the wheel and the system disengages.

The interior comfort is beyond reproach, the overall functionality and design less so. The twin front screens are a bit ugly, and the optional pair you can have in the back can only be operated by a fiddly remote or a smartphone app when you'd think they'd be touchscreen as standard in this iPad era. It can also be quite hard to find the button or menu for the command you actually want (skipping tracks on an album for instance).

Still, if all this winds you up you can always slip into the back seat, recline almost flat and have a hot stone-effect massage.



The S-class is the best car in the world. At least, that's what its maker wants it to be. And it was a phrase we were inclined to see the rationale behind after our first go in the sumptuous new S-class courtesy of the range-topping S 500.

But this S350 BlueTEC has to try and meet that bold aspiration ever more as it is almost certain to be the best-selling S-class. It's all well and good nailing the range-topper, but this bread and butter model is the one that really has to meet its brief.

To help meet the brief, Mercedes has armed the S350 with a 3.0-litre V6 turbodiesel engine. It's the same engine as in its predecessor but armed with more power and torque, lower CO2 and improved economy that are further improved thanks to the S-class's lower weight and improved aerodynamics. Over all this is a fantastic car and amazing value for the money and it makes so much sense to lease to be able to drive a luxury car like this for just over £500 a month then be able to hand it back!!

Score = 10/10  
MPG = 50.4 AV  
Top speed = 155  
0-60 = 6.8  
CO2 = 164  
On the road price = £71,995  
(Lease price £549+vat 6-35 10k MPA)

