

1979 Mercedes-Benz 450SEL 6.9L

4dr Sedan • 8-cyl. 6834cc/250hp Bosch FI

#1 Concours condition

\$90,000

↗ +29.3%

#2 Excellent condition

\$59,800

↗ +29.4%

#3 Good condition

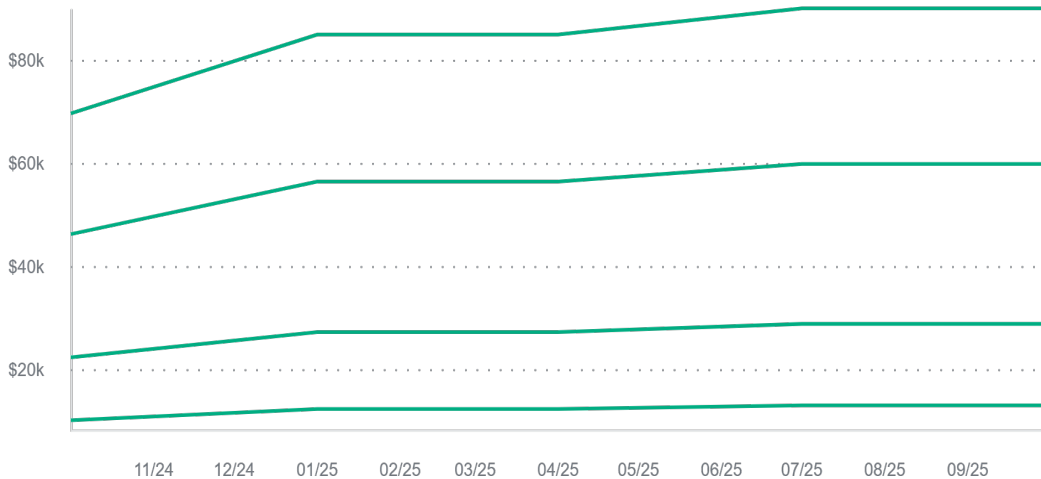
\$28,800*

↗ +29.1%

#4 Fair condition

\$13,000

↗ +28.7%



NOTE: The chart displays price changes for the last year.

Model description

The Mercedes-Benz 450 SE and SEL sedans replaced the 300SE 4.5 V8, which was the last of the 1960s "tall" grille Mercedes sedans. The changes were largely to meet the stricter U.S. safety requirements, and the big bumpers necessitated a redesign of the body. The engine also powered the new 450SL roadster.

The 450SE sedans were widely considered one of the best cars for the money in their day, with a 190-hp fuel-injected, 4.5-liter SOHC V8, three-speed automatic transmission, independent suspension and disc brakes all round, and standard air conditioning. The SEL model stretched the wheelbase four inches for back seat passengers.

The Mercedes-Benz 450 received Bosch K-Jetronic fuel injection in 1975, but there were few changes until 1977, when the base SE model was dropped. Also in 1977, the 6.9-liter 450SEL was introduced with 250 horsepower, and a 140-mph-plus top speed. This model was only built through 1979 but it was considered the best sedan extant during its day, and it cost a whopping \$15,000 more than the "ordinary" \$30,000 450SEL. The 6.9 could do 0-60mph in 7 seconds, which was pretty good going for a car that weighed about 4,500 pounds, and it rode on a complex but sublime hydro-pneumatic self-leveling suspension.

For anyone considering buying one of these models, a pre-purchase inspection is essential. Complete service records and an unbroken chain of ownership are a must, as original owners could afford, and always maintained the cars. Later aspirational owners, on the other hand, tended to sell the cars on when they received bad news from the garage. A total of 101,179 450SE and SEL sedans were sold and there are plenty of survivors.

The same is true in spades with the 6.9-liter cars, but with only 7,380 built, these have always been collectible and far fewer have fallen into serious disrepair. Of course, some have so be forewarned.

*Please note: All prices shown here are based on various data sources, as detailed in [About Our Prices](#). For all Hagerty clients: The values shown do not imply coverage in this amount. In the event of a claim, the Guaranteed Value(s)® on your policy declarations page is the amount your vehicle(s) is covered for, even if the value displayed here is different. If you would like to discuss your policy, please call us at 877-922-3391.

Body styles

4dr Sedan

Engine types

8-cyl. 6834cc/250hp Bosch FI

1973-1979 Mercedes-Benz 450 stats

Highest sale	Lowest sale	Most recent sale	Sales
\$156,750	\$346	\$20,737	278

Vehicle's condition classification

#1. Concours

#1 vehicles are the best in the world. Imagine the best vehicle, in the right colors, driving onto the lawn at the finest concours. Perfectly clean, the vehicle has been groomed down to the tire treads. Painted and chromed surfaces are mirror-like. Dust and dirt are banned, and materials used are correct and superbly fitted.

#2. Excellent

#2 vehicles could win a local or regional show. They might even be former #1 vehicles that have been driven or have aged. Seasoned observers will have to look closely for flaws but will be able to find some. The paint, chrome, glass and finishes will all appear as excellent. The vehicle drives as a new vehicle of its era would.

#3. Good

#3 vehicles drive and run well but are not used for daily transportation. The casual passerby will not find any visual flaws, but these vehicles might have some incorrect parts. #3 vehicles could possess some, but not all, of the issues of a #4 vehicle, but they will be balanced by other factors such as fresh paint or a new, correct interior.

#4. Fair

#4 vehicles are daily drivers, with flaws visible to the naked eye. The chrome might have pitting, the windshield might be chipped and perhaps the body has a minor dent. Imperfect paintwork, split seams or a cracked dash might be present. No major parts are missing, but there might be non-stock additions. A #4 vehicle can also be a deteriorated restoration.