2011 Mercedes-Benz S550 at 105,000 mi

WDDNG7BB4BA123456

MODEL / CHASSIS	ENGINE	MILEAGE	DRIVETRAIN
S550 · W221 S550 sedan	Mercedes-Benz M273 4.7L / 5.5L V8	105,000 mi	RWD
BUILD MONTH	**REPORT DATE**	**MODE**	**PREPARED FOR**
Not entered (door jamb)	October 27, 2026	Owner	Sample Owner

VIN check: check digit valid; model-year code 'B' = 2011, matches the year entered. The VIN doesn't record the build month. Sample report: synthetic VIN.

1 · SUMMARY

What this car needs, in order

Each item compares this car's mileage with when owners and shops report the part failing. It is not an inspection: a qualified technician decides what the car actually needs.

0	0	2
jobs recommended now	to plan in the next 30,000 miles	to watch or check at each service

Safety recalls NHTSA lists for this model year (1 of 2)

- **12V-557** · Fuel system · fuel filter flange: The fuel filter flange can crack in high heat and leak fuel, raising the risk of a fire. Only cars built April 18 to July 12, 2011 are affected.

A model-year list, not a VIN check. The full report lists the others. Repairs are free at a Mercedes-Benz dealer if open. On a car over 15 years old, ask the dealer whether a newer recall is still repaired free. Check this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

Step 0 · Free: run the VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls and ask a Mercedes-Benz dealer for a campaign printout, including 12V-557. Read the build month (MM/YY) on the driver's door-jamb label.

Recommended now at the next service

Good news: nothing on the 4.7/5.5L M273 V8 watch list is due at this mileage. Worth a fresh look at about 115,000 mi.

Next 12 months up to about 117,000 mi

Nothing scheduled here.

Within the next 30,000 miles up to 135,000 mi

Nothing else enters its reported range in this window.

Watch inspect at each service, fix on condition, or optional

Idle gear wear (timing out of phase) — **No published price**

Any mileage (Mostly 2007 V8 engines up to serial 2739..30 088611 (sintered gear)) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

Camshaft solenoid oil leak into the wiring harness — `Free if covered` check the VIN

Any mileage (2007–2011 models with the M273 (and other engines)) · Ask for this check at every service

Recommended now

No repairs due now

Independent shop, installed. Dealers often charge more.

Planned through 135,000 mi

No repairs planned

Now + next 12 months + next 30,000 miles. Excludes “watch” and optional items.

Costs are published independent-shop ranges (low end + low end, high end + high end). Bundled jobs are priced together because the labor overlaps. Routine service (oil, brakes, tires) isn't included; factory fluid and spark plug intervals are listed below.

FACTORY MAINTENANCE

The maker's maintenance schedule isn't on this report

This report doesn't include the maker's scheduled maintenance for this car yet, so brake fluid, spark plugs, coolant and transmission fluid aren't listed even when they're due. Check the service records and the maker's schedule for this car.

WHERE 105K SITS FOR EACH WEAK POINT

#	WEAK POINT	REPORTED RANGE	THIS CAR
1	Idle gear wear (timing out of phase)	Mostly 2007 V8 engines up to serial 2739..30 088611 (sintered gear) OFFICIAL	Any mileage
2	Camshaft solenoid oil leak into the wiring harness	2007–2011 models with the M273 (and other engines) OFFICIAL	Any mileage

Colors compare mileage with reported failures, not the car's condition. Red: past the range. Amber: inside or approaching. Green: below, or not listed for a recall.

2 · RECALLS AND BULLETINS

Recalls to check for this 2011 Mercedes-Benz S550

Safety recall repairs are free at Mercedes-Benz dealers. On a car over 15 years old, ask the dealer whether a newer recall is still repaired free. Nothing here can tell whether a recall is open or already done on this VIN; only the official VIN lookup or a dealer can.

Official VIN check (2 minutes)

1. Go to nhtsa.gov/recalls and enter WDDNG7BB4BA123456.
2. Note every recall shown as “Recall incomplete” and keep a screenshot.
3. Ask a Mercedes-Benz dealer for a campaign printout; it also lists completed campaigns.

4.7/5.5L M273 V8 RECALLS WE TRACK

12V-557 · Fuel filter flange can crack and leak (2011–2012 S550, CL550 and others)

NHTSA lists this model and year: check by VIN

Certain 2011–2012 models built April–July 2011: the fuel filter flange may crack in high heat and leak fuel, a fire risk. Free repair. OFFICIAL [8]

☐ VIN checked ☐ Open: booked with dealer ☐ Completed (printout kept)

EVERY RECALL NHTSA LISTS FOR THE 2011 MERCEDES-BENZ S550 (2)

RECALL	COMPONENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN (NHTSA, SHORTENED)
12V-557 4.7/5.5L M273 V8 tracked	Fuel system · fuel filter flange	The fuel filter flange can crack in high heat and leak fuel, raising the risk of a fire. Only cars built April 18 to July 12, 2011 are affected. Details
11V-493	Tire pressure warning (TPMS)	If all four tire sensors fail at once, the warning shows once and does not repeat at later starts, so the driver may not be reminded of low tire pressure. Details

Source: NHTSA recalls API, fetched 2026-10-27 and combined across NHTSA model names: S550. Safety categories (air bags, fire, brakes, stalling, roll-away and loss of control) are listed first; listings whose NHTSA text names another engine, or an aftermarket part, go last. OFFICIAL

SERVICE ACTIONS, BULLETINS AND WARRANTY PROGRAMS

CAMPAIGN	WHAT IT SAYS	THIS CAR
Balance shaft / idle gear settlement coverage	Sliding-scale coverage up to 10 yr / 125,000 mi for 2005–2007 M272/M273 engines below the serial cut-off. Ended. OFFICIAL [2]	Expired
Fuel tank components extension	15 years regardless of mileage on fuel tank components, 2003–2009 E-Class (W211) and 2006–2011 CLS (W219) gasoline models. OFFICIAL [7]	May apply: check by VIN

4 · THE 2 WEAK POINTS

Each weak point, one card each

Every figure carries its source. Retailer part numbers are shown only when the retailer lists them for this chassis (W221). Left out because they apply to other models, years, engine sizes or body codes: Fuel tank components leak (E550 to 2009, CLS550).

1 Idle gear wear (timing out of phase)

Any mileage

Severity: Critical: rare, but can badly damage the engine · 5 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (Mostly 2007 V8 engines up to serial 2739..30 088611 (sintered gear)), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: Mostly 2007 V8 engines up to serial 2739..30 088611 (sintered gear) OFFICIAL [2]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [2][3]

On early M273 V8 engines the sintered-steel idle gear in the timing drive wears. The timing chain then slips out of phase and the engine sets camshaft/crankshaft position codes 1200/1208 (P0016–P0019). Mercedes settled a class action with coverage up to 10 years / 125,000 miles, which has now ended.

SYMPTOMS

- Check-engine light with P0016–P0019
- Rattle at start-up
- Misfires or rough running

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

The chain can jump teeth and the engine may stall or be damaged.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Read the engine serial number before buying; engines above the cut-off have the steel gear.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Settlement coverage ended; no early fix short of the full repair	**No published price** independent shop, installed
Balance shaft / idle gear repair, reported range	**$2,000–$5,000** FORUM/BLOG [6] reported range for the bill after a failure
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

PARTS FOR W221

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Engine serial number?
- Idle gear ever replaced (after Oct 2006)?
- Any P0016–P0019 codes?

2 Camshaft solenoid oil leak into the wiring harness

Any mileage

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 4 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2007–2011 models with the M273 (and other engines)), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: 2007–2011 models with the M273 (and other engines) OFFICIAL [4]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [4]

The seal in the camshaft adjustment solenoids can settle and let oil leak. Oil can wick up the engine wiring harness toward the engine computer. Mercedes runs a service campaign that fits adapter harnesses as a precaution.

SYMPTOMS

- Oil at the camshaft solenoid connectors
- Oil inside harness plugs
- Check-engine light, camshaft codes

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Oil that reaches the engine control unit can damage it.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Check that campaign 2012070002 is done; replace leaking solenoids early.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Free under service campaign 2012070002 if not yet done	**Free if covered** OFFICIAL [4] independent shop, installed
Camshaft (VVT) solenoid replacement, 2010 S550 estimate	**$270–$370** SHOP/RETAILER [5] reported range for the bill after a failure
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

PARTS FOR W221

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Service campaign 2012070002 done?
- Cam solenoids replaced?

5 · ALSO REPORTED, NOT RANKED

Other themes in 4.7/5.5L M273 V8 owner complaints

Every NHTSA complaint theme with 10 or more counted reports is either a weak point above or explained here.

THEME	COMPLAINTS	WHY IT ISN'T A WEAK POINT
Fire / smoke	38	Mixed causes in the text (seat heaters, wiring, unknown); not one engine fault.
Stalling / loss of power	22	Mixed causes in the complaint text; not one engine fault.

6 · BUYING OR SELLING

Used-car checklist and resale helper

For owners this is a resale checklist: it's what a careful buyer will ask.

Ask the inspecting shop to check

- Engine serial number vs the idle-gear cut-off
- Stored P0016–P0019 codes
- Oil at camshaft solenoid connectors
- Fuel smell at the tank

Ask the seller

- Idle gear replaced?
- Campaign 2012070002 done?

Documents to request

- Dealer service-history printout for the VIN (shows campaigns and extended-warranty repairs)
- nhtsa.gov/recalls screenshot

WHAT A BUYER MAY DEDUCT

FINDING	ESTIMATED ADJUSTMENT
Idle gear wear (timing out of phase): symptoms or fault codes present	No published price
Camshaft solenoid oil leak into the wiring harness: fault found on inspection	$270–$370
Pre-ticked rows (●), if no records clear them	**None at this mileage**

● = expected at this mileage. Estimated repair costs, not an appraisal. Recalls cost the seller nothing: ask for open recalls to be completed rather than discounted. OUR ESTIMATE

7 · METHOD AND SOURCES

How this report is built

Inputs. VIN, model year, model, mileage and build month (if entered). Model and engine are checked with NHTSA's vPIC decoder.

Mileage positions. Below: more than 10,000 miles before the reported range. Approaching: within 10,000. Inside: in the range, or past the start of an open-ended range. Past: beyond the top of the range. These bands are our rules, not an industry standard.

The plan. Critical items inside or past their range go first; high-severity items follow, and jobs that share labor are bundled. At most three jobs land in “Recommended now”. Leaks that are cheap to watch are fixed on condition; inspections are asked for at each service.

Costs. Published independent-shop ranges from shop quotes, retailer prices and owner reports. The worst-case cost of every item failing is not shown: it isn't an expected cost.

Labels. OFFICIAL NHTSA/Mercedes-Benz documents · SHOP/RETAILER parts prices and shop articles · FORUM/BLOG owner forums and blogs · COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA our analysis of NHTSA data · OUR ESTIMATE ours.

NHTSA complaint data. Pulled Oct 27, 2026 from NHTSA's complaints API for S-, E-, CL-, SL-, CLS-, CLK-, ML- and GL-Class complaints that name a 450/550 model or the 4.6/4.7/5.5L or V8, excluding AMG, 600/65 and diesel models (NHTSA files Mercedes-Benz complaints by class): 334 complaints. Some of these nameplates were sold with other engines too; for those we left out complaints whose text names another engine or a hybrid, so a few complaints about other engines can remain. Themes are keyword matches on the complaint text. The same idle-gear settlement also covers the M272 V6, which has its own page. COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

THEME	COMPLAINTS IN THIS REPORT	
Fire / smoke	38	Also reported
Stalling / loss of power	22	Also reported
Fuel smell / fuel leak	14	Other years or engine sizes
Timing / idle gear (P0016–P0019)	5	Item 1
Camshaft solenoid / oil in harness	4	Item 2

Limits: complaints are self-reported and not adjusted for cars sold; keyword matching over- and under-counts; owners rarely file safety complaints about oil seeps, so leaks look rarer than they are.

SOURCES

1. NHTSA owner complaints for 2007–2011 S-, E-, CL-, SL-, CLS-, 2008–2011 ML- and 2007–2012 GL-Class complaints that name a 450/550 model or the 4.7/5.5L V8, leaving out AMG and diesel, pulled Oct 27, 2026 (ODI numbers in the cost notes) OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem#complaints

2. Mercedes-Benz Warranty Coverage Extension: Balance Shaft and Idle Gear: MY 2005–2007 M272/M273 engines up to serial 2739..30 088611 (V8); settlement coverage up to 10 yr / 125,000 mi (2015-10-30), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2026/MC-11031629-0001.pdf

3. Mercedes-Benz Service bulletin 033008: Check engine light, fault codes 1200/1208 (camshaft-crankshaft position) on M272 and M273 engines (2008-04-24), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/?nhtsaId=10022893

4. Mercedes-Benz Service campaign 2012070002: Camshaft adjustment solenoid may leak oil; engine wiring harness retrofitted with adapter harnesses (2012-11-01), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2012/SB-10048279-4718.pdf

5. YourMechanic: Mercedes-Benz S550 variable valve timing (VVT) solenoid replacement estimates (2010 S550: about $271–$370), via search extract Oct 27, 2026 SHOP/RETAILER
https://www.yourmechanic.com/estimates/mercedes-benz/s550/variable-valve-timing-vvt-solenoid-replacement

6. Au7o known issues: Mercedes-Benz CLS-Class 2010 (balance shaft / idle gear wear, reported $2,000–$5,000 repair) (AI-assisted site, not independently verified) FORUM/BLOG
https://au7o.io/known-issues/mercedes-benz-cls-class?year=2010

7. Mercedes-Benz Warranty Coverage Extension: Fuel Tank Components: Model 211 E-Class 2003–2009 and Model 219 CLS 2006–2011 gasoline: fuel tank components to 15 years regardless of mileage (2015-01-09), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2026/MC-11031595-0001.pdf

8. NHTSA recall records: 12V-557 (2011–2012 S550/CL550 fuel filter flange), checked Oct 27, 2026 OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls?nhtsaId=12V557000

This report contains no affiliate links; retailer prices are quoted as price sources only. Found an error? Email hello@repairahead.com.

PLEASE READ

Important

Based on public records and published repair costs. Not a diagnosis or a guarantee. Your technician's inspection decides what your car needs. Confirm recalls with a dealer using your VIN.

Informational only. This report is not a mechanical inspection, a diagnosis, or professional, legal or financial advice. Nobody from RepairAhead has seen, driven or inspected this vehicle.

Reported ranges and estimates, not predictions

Failure mileages are reported ranges compiled from public owner complaints, manufacturer bulletins, recalls and repair-shop reports. Costs are estimates. Parts can fail earlier, later or not at all, and other problems can occur. Statistics from owner complaints describe past reports to NHTSA; NHTSA has not reviewed or endorsed this analysis.

Safety issues go to a dealer

If you notice overheating, a burning or fuel smell, smoke, a brake-assist problem, stalling or loss of power, pull over when it's safe and contact a Mercedes-Benz dealer or qualified shop. Safety recall repairs are free at Mercedes-Benz dealers. Confirm recalls for this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

No warranty

Provided “as is”, without warranties of any kind, under the Terms of Use at repairahead.com/terms.

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Wrong input (VIN, mileage, build date)? Email hello@repairahead.com with report ID RA-M273-123456-20261027 and we'll correct and reissue it.

Based on public records and published repair costs. Not a diagnosis or a guarantee. Your technician's inspection decides what your car needs. Confirm recalls with a dealer using your VIN.