

## 167 howling noise from rear axle differential area

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Version	1
Function group	35.31 - Rear axle center assembly
Date	9/10/25
Validity	Vehicles up to manufacturing date 03/31/2024
Reason for change	null

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### Complaint

1. Howling noises from the area of the rear axle
2. Oil discoloration is present during oil change (water in oil)
3. Oil leakage from the breather cap

### Cause

The bleed line of rear differential may be misaligned, causing the rubber end piece to rest on the wheel well liner.

When driving in the rain, water enters through the rubber elbow from the soaked wheel well liner.

### Remedy

Perform a road test and determine the location of the noise using NVH equipment. If the rear axle differential is the root cause of the noise, continue with the following:

1. Drain oil from rear axle differential and check for signs of water intrusion (discoloration/cloudiness)

Remedy A: If no water is found

2. Remove/install left wheel well trim.
3. Remove rubber end piece from the bleed line.
4. Install modified end piece with the part number A 167 351 50 00.
5. Identify source of the noise and, if necessary, replace the parts causing the concern.

Remedy B: If water is found

2. Remove/install left wheel well trim.
3. Remove rubber end piece from the bleed line.
4. Install modified end piece with the part number A 167 351 50 00.

## 5. Replace rear axle differential

### Disclaimer

NOTE: The information contained in this document is intended for use by trained, professional technicians with the knowledge to properly and safely perform diagnosis and repairs on Mercedes-Benz vehicles, using Mercedes-Benz approved tools and equipment. It informs service technicians about conditions that could occur in certain vehicles and provides information that could assist in proper vehicle diagnosis, service, or repair. It does not indicate that a defect is present in any vehicle referenced in this document nor does it imply warranty coverage. DO NOT assume that a symptom or condition, or a described cause of a symptom or condition, affects any particular vehicle or groups of vehicles, or that a described repair applies to any particular vehicle or groups of vehicles. There can be multiple causes resulting in the same or similar symptoms or conditions described in this document, and trained professional service technicians must use their diagnostic skills to make evaluations on a case-by-case basis. The information contained in this document does not guarantee warranty coverage nor does it extend the vehicle's warranty in any way.

#### Symptoms

Power transmission > Differential > Rear axle differential > Noises > Howling

Power transmission > Differential > Rear axle differential > Leakage > Leaks

#### Parts

Part number	ES1	ES2	Designation	Quantity	Note	EPC
A 167 351 50 00			Breather cap	1	The part number A 117 078 04 81 must no longer be used.	X

#### Operation numbers/damage codes

Op. no.	Operation text	Time	Damage code	Note
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