

Citroën C2 1.6i 16V VTR 3d SensoDrive

BEHIND THE WHEEL

★★★★★★☆☆☆☆

Forward visibility is good and there's a large windscreen. Small wing mirrors and a small rear screen means that backward visibility isn't great, though it's not a cause for concern. C2 has a large digital speedo, which means you always know the exact speed you're travelling. The odometer, trip and fuel gauge are also digital, though the rev counter is a dial. The cabin layout is simple and all the buttons are easy to reach. The steering wheel adjusts for height - as does the driver's seat on most models - which makes finding a driving position more comfortable. However, the seats are a little thin and lack support on longer trips. Poorly finished plastics on the driver's door scratch your arms on longer journeys.



HANDLING

★★★★★★☆☆☆☆

An easy car to drive, with light, accurate steering and a tight turning circle making light work of town driving. It's also quite fun to drive when you get it on the open road. In conjunction with a peppy range of engines, it corners well and has little bodyroll. The SensoDrive gearbox offers the driver the choice of manual or automatic gearchanges. The changes are mainly smooth and you'll find it invaluable if you spend most of your time in town. Stop-and-Start models switch the engine off in jams and at traffic lights then re-starts it once the driver's foot comes off the brake. It saves petrol and means less pollution is created. The ride can be a little crashy, but is fine in everyday driving.

Wheelbase:

2315 mm

SAFETY

★★★★★★☆☆☆☆

Its four-star Euro NCAP crash-test rating is pretty good and it comes with a decent amount of safety kit for the price, including seatbelt pre-tensioners, four three-point seatbelts and dual front airbags. ABS was optional on some models, until 2004, when it was fitted to every car as standard. Security is taken care of with remote central locking, deadlocks and an immobiliser.

Euro NCAP

Adult occupant rating:

★★★★☆

Child protection rating:

★★★★☆

Pedestrian rating:

★★★☆☆

COMFORT

★★★★★★☆☆☆☆

C2 should primarily be used as a two-seater, with the ability to have two in the back for shorter trips. That's because the space in the back is very tight, although the seats slide independently of each other for extra legroom. On the road, there is noticeable road noise, though wind and engine noise are reasonably low. Sound system is good quality for the price and the air-con works well.

Length:	3666 mm
Width:	1659 mm
Height:	1461 mm
Weight:	1055 Kg
Noise:	68 dB



PRACTICALITY

★★★★★★☆☆☆☆

Boot space is limited, especially with the rear seats back for maximum legroom. Several extra clever cubby-holes help, but luggage room is limited to a couple of shopping bags. Rear screen flips up to form a split tailgate, a thoughtful touch that lets you drop off bags in a hurry.

Braked towing weight:	565 kg
Luggage capacity (seats up):	193 litres
Turning circle:	10 m
Unbraked towing weight:	450 Kg

Citroën C2 1.6i 16V VTR 3d SensoDrive



RELIABILITY

★★★★★☆☆☆☆

Nothing major reported by owners, although the engine management system has caused some problems, as has the SensoDrive gearbox.

- Car check body:** No problems reported.
Car check engine: Engine management problems and SensoDrive Gearbox issues.
Car check other: Interior is rather flimsy and some panels could easily break. Recalls for break hoses, suspension springs, loss of braking efficiency and a slow returning accelerator.

RUNNING COSTS

★★★★★★★★☆☆

Pretty good across the range. It's cheap to buy in the first place which means that although depreciation can look high as a percentage, the actual amount of cash you lose can be less than rivals. Plus Citroën also offer plenty of incentives for new buyers. Parts and servicing costs are reasonable and good security means insurance groups are low, too; the 1.1 starts at an eye-catching Group 1. Fuel consumption is impressive for all models and exceptional for the diesel.

Insurance group:	6
Click here for an insurance quote	
Miles per gallon:	44
Fuel capacity:	41 litres
Euro emissions standard:	4
CO2 emissions:	151 g/km

Vehicle excise duty for cars registered on or after 1st March 2001, is now based on the fuel type and carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions levels of individual vehicles.

VED Tax Band:	D
VED for 12 months:	£125
VED for 6 months:	£62

Company car tax for the year 2005/2006; for tax purposes the list price of a car includes delivery charges but not road tax and new car registration fee.

Annual tax at 22%:	£422
Annual tax at 40%:	£768

PERFORMANCE

★★★★★☆☆☆☆

It's not a wide line-up, though there should still be something to suit all tastes. The range is kicked-off with the 60bhp 1.1-litre. It's cheap to run and fine for town work, but really lacks the power for the motorway. The 1.4 is a better choice for drivers who spend more of their time on motorways or dual carriageways; it's the only engine to be offered with 'Stop-and-Start' technology (see 'Handling' section). 1.6-litre models power the 'hot hatch' GT and VTS models (see separate reviews), as well the warm VTR. As C2 is light, models with the 1.6-litre engine are quick and with decent steering and little bodyroll, good to drive. The 1.4-litre diesel is very economical and remarkably punchy. Expect to get upwards of 60mpg from it in everyday driving.

All models are nippy around town and capable of motorway speeds, but the 1.1 needs to be pushed harder and often requires downchanges for steeper hills. Overtaking needs advance planning.

BHP:	110
Engine capacity:	1587 cc
Cylinders:	4
Fuel delivery:	Multi point fuel injection
Gears:	5 Speed
Top speed:	121 mph
Torque:	108 lb/ft
Torque:	146 Nm
Transmission:	Semi-Auto
Valves:	16
Zero to sixty:	10.6 seconds

autotrend.co.uk
 UNIT 2
 12 EMERY ROAD
 BRISLINGTON
 BS4 5PF

TEL: 01179 332742

sales@autotrend.co.uk
<http://www.autotrend.co.uk>

