

## Moving into your new home in Germany

Tick off the steps you have done as you go along. On pages 2 and 3 you will find more detailed information.

- Sign the rent contract with the landlord
- Register (Ger. "Anmeldung") at the town hall (Ger. "Bürgeramt" or "Einwohnermeldeamt") within a week. Take with you:
  - registration form (Ger. "Meldebogen")
  - passport
  - some cash (in some cities you may have to pay a small fee)
  - when renting, a "Vermieterbescheinigung" (landlord's certificate)
- Take photos of any damages you can see in the flat or house you have rented
- Find out who you need to contact in an emergency, e.g. if a pipe bursts or you lose the keys.
- Take photos of the utilities counter readings
- Make sure you know what the house rules are
- Find the best price for your [utilities](#) and choose the best option
- Find out how much you will be charged for garbage collection, how to [separate waste](#) and [when to take the garbage out](#).
- Apply for the GEZ broadcasting licence. Fill in the [GEZ form](#)
- Purchase a telephone, internet connection and TV package from any of the [main providers](#).
- Purchase a pre-paid mobile phone number or a 24-month contract. Compare [prices for mobile phone services](#) (in German)
- If necessary, shop around for a new kitchen and cupboards for the bedrooms
- Put your surname and your spouse's surname on your mailbox and doorbell
- Take out an insurance to protect your home and its contents. Find information about these and other [insurances in Germany](#) as well as what your [insurance priorities](#) should be.
- [Open a bank account](#)
- [Contact a tax advisor](#) for your yearly tax declaration
- If you have an Indian driver's licence, remember that it will no longer be valid in Germany after six months. Prepare to obtain a German driver's license
- Register your children at the kindergarten or school in your neighbourhood

This information was written by Germans for our Indian guests. It is intended as an aid. We assume no liability for translation errors, currentness or accuracy of the information provided. Thanks for your understanding.

## Moving into your new home in Germany

### Registration

On moving, you must register at the town hall (Ger. "Bürgeramt" or "Einwohnermeldeamt") within a week. Delays will result in penalties. This is called "Anmeldung", "Ummeldung" when you move within the same town and "Abmeldung" when you leave your current address. You must have the following papers with you:

- registration form (Ger. "Meldebogen")
- passport
- some cash (in some cities you may have to pay a small fee)
- when renting, a "Vermieterbescheinigung" (landlord's certificate)

This registration is necessary for many other matters, such as getting your driving license, asking for a certificate of conduct (Ger. "Führungszeugnis") or applying for your income tax card (Ger. "Lohnsteuerkarte").

### Handover

Make sure you note down and take photos of any damages you can see in the flat or house when you move in and find out who you need to contact in an emergency, e.g. if a pipe bursts or you lose the keys. If the utilities are not included in your contract, write down the counter readings (a photo is also helpful). These will be necessary when contracting providers.

### Contract or inform your service providers

If you are just moving into your first home in Germany, you will have to find some service providers.

- **Water:** charges are usually levied with the rent
- **Electricity and gas:** the gas may be included in the rent, if you have agreed to a "Warmmiete" contract. If not, your landlord may suggest you register with the local electricity supplier. However, it is worthwhile comparing prices. Find the best price [the best prices for electricity and gas](#). You will be charged an estimated fixed sum monthly and this will be amended yearly depending on your consumption. Counters are usually only read by the providers once a year.
- **Garbage:** you will be charged by your local community, depending on the number of people in your household. Separation of garbage is very important in Germany. Find further information on this under [garbage separation](#).
- **GEZ broadcasting licence:** Public TV and radio channels are financed through a licence which must be paid by all owners of TVs or radios. Fill in this [GEZ form](#) (in German) to start paying the licence.
- **Telephone, internet and TV:** Telephone services are now usually over the internet, so you can purchase a package from any of the [main telecoms providers](#).
- **Mobile phone:** if you already have a phone, the quickest way to be connected in Germany is to purchase a pre-paid card. You may compare prices [for prepaid cards](#) (in German) or go to any electronics shop. Otherwise, service providers, will offer 24-month contracts (search for "Handytarife Preisvergleich" – mobile phone fees price comparison).

If you are moving within Germany let the post office know so that they can redirect the mail to your new address. This is called "Nachsendeantrag". Informing all the other service providers is also important!

### **Kitchen and cupboards**

Many flats and houses in Germany are rented without a kitchen and cupboards! Built-in cupboards for your clothes are practically non-existent in Germany. If you are only staying for a short period of time, you may wish to insist on finding one with a kitchen. Sometimes you can buy it off the previous tenant. Otherwise, be prepared to shop around for a new kitchen (Ger. "Küche") and for cupboards.

### **Identify your home**

It is customary to put your name on your mailbox and doorbell. The postman and your visitors will be grateful! If your spouse has a different surname, don't forget to add that one too.

### **Insure your home (and other insurances)**

Take out an insurance to protect your home and its contents. Find information about these and other [insurances in Germany](#) as well as what your [insurance priorities](#) should be.

### **Other useful tips:**

German voltage is 220-240 volts

[Plugs](#) used are rounded (type F), but sockets will also work with types C and E.

German TV standard is DVB (previously PAL)

Mobile phone standard is GSM

### **Work and taxes**

Read our section on [working in Germany](#) to find out more about your rights, social security contributions and taxes. You will also find a link to calculate an estimate of your "Einkommenssteuer" (income tax), and your net salary, to avoid any surprises (see [Gross-net salary calculator](#)). You will need to [contact a tax advisor](#) as well for your yearly tax declaration.

### **Open a bank account**

Opening a bank account is important because your salary will be deposited there, and your landlord will want to be given permission to debit the rent from your account (Ger. "Lastschriftverfahren"). All the other services will also be paid in this way. Here is information on [opening a bank account](#).

### **Driving**

Your Indian driving licence, (and any other issued outside the EU) will only be valid for 6 months provided you have an international drivers permit. After that you will have to register at a driving school and take the exam. The exam is available in English and other European languages.

### **Childcare and schooling**

Young children (1-5 years old) may attend a nursery/kindergarten in Germany, but places are hard to come by. Therefore, make sure you register them as soon as you move in. They will probably be placed on a waiting list. Germany offers public schooling as from the age of 6. You will generally not be allowed to register your children in a school which is not in your neighbourhood.