

Things you should know as a tenant in Germany

Dear student,

There are several things you should be aware of when renting an apartment. Being a tenant in Germany sometimes might be different to your home country. Please find here some useful tips & tricks.

Saving energy and separating waste:

-**Collect waste separately:** Waste paper and glass belong in the waste containers. Emptied and clean packaging belongs in the yellow bag. Raw vegetable matter (peelings) and coffee grounds belong in the bio- bin if available. All the rest belongs in the residual waste.

-**Switch off the heaters, while airing** the room.

-**Correct procedure of airing:** Two to three times a day with the window wide open, no permanent airing with the window on tilt.

-**To wash dishes:** Put water into the sink and wash the dishes, rinse with fresh water afterwards. Do not wash dishes under running water. Shut off the water tap properly.



-Higher cost can occur through **wasting energy and water** which then have to **be put on top of the rent**. You would have to pay for it after your move-out.

-**Deposit system:** When you buy a plastic or glass bottle in any food store or a can of any beverage, they put between 7 and 25 cent deposit on the purchase price. You can bring back the empty bottle / can to any food store and you will get back the money.

This is how it works:

1. Put the bottle into the provided machine (e.g. in the supermarket). Be aware that there are two types of machines. There are symbols on the bottles / cans. You can put them only into the machines with the same symbol.

2. You will get a voucher with the deposit on it.

(Example: If you bring back 3 Bottles with 25cent deposit → 75 cent Voucher)

3. You can either go to the counter and ask for the money or use the voucher to buy other things in the food store.

Cleaning and repairs:

-if you move into a shared flat, **ask for the cleaning roster**. There might exist a plan, which tells you, when and what you need to clean.

-Your student room is cleaned for when you arrive. Once you have moved in you will be responsible for **cleaning your room and any shared areas** within your apartment.

-You should **clean regularly** (at least once in a week): the kitchen (surfaces, hobs, sink), the bathroom (mirror, toilette, basin, shower) and the floor (most residences provide vacuum cleaners). Steadily, you need **to remove the trash / waste** and **wash the dishes**.

-**Once in a month** you should clean the oven, microwave and door of your room.

-Use **eligible cleaning items (cloths, brush, swap etc.)**, **rubber gloves**, **liquids and powders** to clean your stuff.

-**Through away old and rotten food** (cheese, meat, vegetables, fruits etc.)

-If something is **broken or damaged** you should **report it immediately!**

-**Repairs** that do not have to be carried out immediately will be **attended to by the facility manager** as soon as possible after having received the damage report. **Emergencies** (e.g. flooding) will be **attended to by the on-duty service**, if the facility manager is off-duty.

-**Do not throw any items into the sinks** (Shower, toilet, kitchen sink etc.). The costs for a blocked drain you need to pay by yourself.

Before you move out:

-Don't forget **to terminate your rental contract in time** (usually 3 months before you move out).

-**Cleaning!** You will have to pay if you do not clean properly.

-**Arrange room inspection:** Contact the caretaker (landlord/lady) 1 or 2 weeks before you want the final inspection. Make sure that **you are present at the inspection** (remember the inventory list from your move-in)

-**Handover the keys** to the caretaker right after the inspection. You are not allowed to stay in the room after the inspection.

Peace at night:

-**Respect the peace at night and do not disturb the neighborhood** with loud noises. Especially **between 10pm and 7am** it is forbidden to do noisy activities (play instruments, make parties, loud conversations etc.). Be aware, that **you can get in big trouble with the police and the landlord of your residence** if you do not respect this rule.

