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Everyday life

Opening hours, public holidays, time

Opening hours

Most of the larger grocery shops in our region are open from Monday to Saturday from 08:00 to 20:00. Shops in the city centres are open from 10:00 to 20:00. These hours are often shorter for smaller shops. Sometimes there is also a lunch break. Almost all shops are closed on Sundays. Exceptions are bakeries and petrol stations.

💡 Buses and trains run at different times on Sundays and public holidays!

Public holidays in the region

There is no work on a public holiday and all shops are closed. There are public holidays for everyone and public holidays that vary from state to state. Hesse has 10 public holidays. Most of these are church and Christian holidays.

1 January: New Year

March/April (changing date): Good Friday

March/April (following Good Friday): Easter (Easter Sunday, Easter Monday)

1 May: Labour Day

May (alternating date): Ascension Day

May/June (alternating date): Whitsun (Whit Sunday, Whit Monday)

May/June (alternating date): Corpus Christi

3 October: Day of German Unity

25 December: Christmas Day

26 December: Second Christmas Day

The public holidays with changing dates can be found on the Internet for the respective year.

Time of day

Central European Time (CET) applies in Germany. In addition, on the last Sunday in March, there is a changeover to summer time. At 2:00 am, the clocks are set forward to 3:00 am. On the last Sunday in October, they are put back to 2.00 am at 3.00 am.

Mobility

Public transport

Erlensee is very well connected to local public transport. Various bus lines take you quickly to all the neighbouring towns.

You can find a timetable for Erlensee and the region at the bus stops, on the **internet** ([rmv](#) or [Deutsche Bahn](#)) and in the **RMV app** or the **Deutsche Bahn app**.

💡 Travelling without a ticket will be penalised! You must have a valid ticket for every journey. Otherwise you will pay a heavy fine.


Tickets

- You can buy a ticket from a ticket machine or special points of sale. You will find ticket machines at the railway station. You can also buy tickets from the driver on the bus. You can also buy tickets on the website or via the RMV app or Deutsche Bahn app. Find out more there.
- There are different fare zones. The price changes depending on how far you are travelling.
- If you use public transport more often, find out about cheaper tickets. For example, there is a day ticket, group tickets or monthly and annual passes.
- You do not have to pay the full price for children. Children up to the age of 5 travel free of charge and there are discounted tickets for children aged between 6 and 14.
- You can also use one ticket to change between different modes of transport (bus, underground, S-Bahn and regional railway). The exception is short journeys (underground two stops, bus four stops). Check how far you are allowed to travel.
- You need separate tickets for long-distance transport, local transport tickets are not valid for long-distance transport!
- All information about tickets can be found on the [Rhein-Main-Verkehrsverbund \(RMV\)](#) website.

Cycling

Cycling is a healthier, cheaper and more environmentally friendly alternative to other means of transport.

There is a cycle route planner that you can use to easily plan your routes.

 You can access the cycle route planner website [here](#).

Important traffic rules for cyclists:

- Always ride on the right-hand side of the carriageway
- Do not ride next to each other, but behind each other
- If there is a cycle path, you must ride on the cycle path (always on the right-hand side of the road in the direction of travel)
- Only children up to the age of 11 are allowed to cycle on footpaths
- Using a mobile phone on a bicycle is prohibited

Purchase and repairs:

When buying a bike, make sure that it is equipped as follows and is therefore roadworthy. Otherwise you will have to pay a fine if you are stopped by the police.

- Front and rear lights
- Reflector front and rear
- Reflectors in the spokes (2 per wheel)
- Reflectors on the pedals
- Bell
- Two independent brakes

Driving licence

Would you like to drive in Germany and have a driving licence from your country of origin? If you have a foreign driving licence, you may drive with it in Germany for up to 6 months after registering with the registration office.

If the driving licence is not in Latin script, you will also need an international driving licence or a certified translation of the national driving licence.

You must always have your driving licence with you when driving. Driving without a valid driving licence is a punishable offence in Germany.


After 6 months, certain types of driving licence must be transferred. Check whether the driving licence can also be recognised in Germany or whether you have to pass a theoretical and practical driving test again. The theory test can be taken in many different languages, not just German. Special rules apply to driving licence categories such as HGVs and others, so check with the driving licence office.

Driving licences from EU and EEA states with category B (car) do not need to be rewritten if they are valid for an unlimited period. If the driving licence expires, you can exchange it with an application. You need:


- Application
- Copy of driving licence
- Copy of identity card/passport
- Current biometric passport photo

If you come from a third country and would like to exchange your driving licence, you must take a theoretical and practical test at a driving school (there are exceptions for some countries). You will need the following to exchange your licence

- Application
- Copy of the foreign driving licence
- Certified translation of the foreign driving licence (from ADAC, sworn interpreter)
- Copy of the identity card/passport
- Current biometric passport photo
- eye test
- First aid course

 Information for asylum seekers: Before you register with a driving school, first check whether you are allowed to take a driving test. Proof of identity is required for this!


 General information on driving licences in several languages can be found [here](#).

 Think about transferring your licence in good time, the processing takes some time.

To register a car:

Registration office for the Main-Kinzig district

 [Dörnigheimerstraße 1, 63452 Hanau](#)

 0 [6181292](#) 22637


 @zulassung@mkk.de

To transfer your driving licence:


Hanau driving licence office

(located in the building of the registration office)

 [Dörnigheimerstraße 1, 63462 Hanau](#)

 0 [6181292](#) 22622

 f [uehrers](mailto:uehrers@cheinstelle@mkk.de) cheinstelle@mkk.de

 Further information on the recognition and transfer of driving licences can be found at the [Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure](#)

Livelihood security

Do you need financial assistance?

Then you need to apply for basic income support.


What is basic income support?


Basic income support is financial assistance for people who do not have enough money.

You can apply for basic income support or assistance with living expenses if you

- are unable to work (your inability to work must be determined by the Job Centre / Municipal Employment Centre).
- your pension is not sufficient to cover your living expenses.

You can apply to the Office for Social Support and Participation for further assistance in special circumstances.

 [Barbarossastraße 24, 63571 Gelnhausen](#)

 [06051/850](#)

 @sozialhilfe-grundsicherung@mkk.de

 Consultation hours by telephone appointment only.

 You can find a list of the administrative offices with extension numbers [here](#).

Assistance for migrants

Who gets help?

Some tolerated persons also receive help.

If you apply for asylum, you will receive help.

What is help?

The help is money.

You use it to buy food.

You pay for your flat.


You get help with illness.

You get help for babies.

Office for Social Support and Participation of the Main-Kinzig District

 [Barbarossastraße 24, 63571 Gelnhausen](#)


Benefits processing:


 [06051/18259](tel:06051/18259)

 hfm@mkk.de

 [Further information](#)

Health assistance according to AsylbLG

 [06051/ 8518285](tel:06051/8518285)

 [06051/8516240](tel:06051/8516240)

 h_fm@mkk.de

 [Further information](#)

 Consultation hours by telephone appointment only.

Job centre / KCA

If you are able to work and are basically able to work, but have no job or earn too little (including recognised refugees), you can apply for financial support from the Jobcenter / KCA. You can find more information [here](#).

Municipal Centre for Employment

Hanau region

 [Eugen-Kaiser-Straße 7, 63450 Hanau](#)

☎ [06181/29244445](tel:06181/29244445)

@ hanau@kca-mkk.de

🌐 [Further information](#)

Current account

A current account is an account for people who want to make payments via the bank. Your money is available in your current account at all times. Make sure that you have enough money in your account for all withdrawals and payments.

With a current account you can

- Make transfers
- Receive cashless payments (payments from public offices / authorities / social benefits are often made cashless, i.e. transferred to a personal current account)
- Set up standing orders
- Participate in direct debit procedures
- Cashing cheques, making cashless payments with the EC/Maestro card
- Withdraw cash at bank counters or ATMs
- Print out your account statements

Opening an account

Decide which bank you would like to have an account with. Make an appointment to open an account. Please bring one of your identification documents with you: Proof of arrival, residence permit, identity card. If no current address is noted on the legitimisation document, please also bring a registration certificate or a comparable document.

- After opening the account, you will receive an EC card with a four-digit PIN code. Sign the back of the EC card and memorise the PIN code. You will need the PIN code for cashless payments and for withdrawing money from ATMs. **Be sure to keep your card and PIN code separate!**
- If you want to withdraw cash, it is best to use the ATMs of the bank where you have your account. Then the withdrawal costs nothing. If the PIN code is entered incorrectly three times at the ATM, the debit card will be cancelled and blocked. In this case, you must ask your bank.
- If your debit card is lost or stolen, have it blocked immediately. State your sort code and account number. Then ask your bank for a new EC card. You can block the card around the clock by dialling: ☎ [116116](tel:116116)

💡 Different banks offer current accounts with different conditions. Find out exactly how much a current account costs each month and what services the bank offers in return.

💡 If you do not speak German or English, please bring an interpreter with you.

Shopping

Supermarket

Most groceries in Germany are bought in a supermarket or at the market. You can usually find everything you need there. In some places there are also Turkish, Arabic or Russian grocery shops.

There are various grocery shops with food from other cultures. It is best to get in touch with other people and ask about them.

Supermarkets vary in price. Compare the prices.


Weekly market


In Erlensee, a so-called "weekly market" is held on Saturdays from 8.00 am to 1.00 pm on the [square](#) in front of the town hall.

The market mainly sells groceries such as sausage, cheese, fruit and vegetables or baked goods.

Shopping facilities

REWE supermarket


 [Leipziger Str. 41, 63526 Erlensee](#)

 06183 8073504

 [rewe.de](#)

REWE - Supermarket

 [Ravolzhäuser Str. 2-4, 63526 Erlensee](#)

 06183 802156

 [rewe.de](#)

Waste separation and waste disposal

There are four rubbish bins in Erlensee. The aim is to better separate and dispose of waste.

The rubbish is collected in different rubbish bins.

The landlord or landlady provides the various bins for you.

The rubbish collection service collects the rubbish regularly.

What goes in the bins?

Residual waste goes in the black bin.

Waste that cannot be recycled goes in the black bin:

- Nappies, sanitary towels and tampons
- Paper tissues, facial tissues, paper towels
- plastic bags
- hoover bags
- Coated paper
- Wallpaper, carpet residues
- Ash, small animal litter, cigarette butts

Paper and cardboard can be disposed of in the green bin.

However, the paper must be clean and uncoated.

- Newspapers and magazines
- Cardboard boxes
- Catalogues
- leaflets
- exercise books
- books
- Forms and printer paper
- Letters and envelopes
- Paper bags
- Paper packaging
- Cigarette packets (without aluminium and without foil)
- Chocolate boxes (without plastic)

Compostable waste goes in the brown bin.

- Kitchen waste (including meat and fish scraps)
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Salad (without salad dressing)
- Potato peelings, egg shells
- Coffee filter bags, tea bags
- Wilted bouquets of flowers
- Potted plants (without pot)
- Garden waste
- Crumpled newspaper to soak up moisture

Important note

NO plastic in the organic waste bin!

No plastic bags are allowed in the organic waste bins. Not even if the bags are labelled "biodegradable".

The problem is that these are not compostable, but have to be sorted out as impurities in the composting layer.

This is very time-consuming and expensive.

If the organic waste bin contains so many items that do not belong in it, the bin will remain empty.

The wrong items must be sorted out so that the bin can be emptied the next time it is emptied.

Put plastic and aluminium packaging in the yellow bin.

Plastic and metal packaging can be put in the yellow bin, even without the Green Dot:

- Aluminium bottle caps
- Aluminium trays and cans
- Packaging from tablets
- Shower gel bottles and shampoo bottles
- Plastic shopping bags
- foils
- Beverage cartons
- Coffee vacuum packaging
- Plastic bottles and plastic cups
- Plastic cleaning agent bottles
- Styrofoam packaging
- Tubes (for toothpaste, ointments, creams)

Waste calendar

Here you can see when the rubbish bins are collected. There is also the [waste calendar Erlensee 2025.pdf](#).

The waste calendar is distributed to all households in Erlensee at the end of the year.

It can also be collected from the Citizens' Service Centre at the indoor swimming pool.

Glass in the glass container

Glass bottles and jars (white, green, brown) must be disposed of in the glass container.

Here is a list of the locations [of the glass containers](#)

Old clothes and shoes in the old clothes containers

You can donate old clothes and shoes in good condition. However, they must not be broken.

There are used clothing and shoe containers in Erlensee.

You can find the [locations of the clothing and shoe containers](#) here.

Bulky waste:

Large items can be collected via the bulky waste service. Collection can be requested by telephone at ☎ [06183/91510](tel:0618391510) or online at sperrmuell.erlensee.de.

A distinction is made between bulky wood waste and residual bulky waste. A total of 8 m³ per year can be registered for collection free of charge.

Bulky wood waste includes

- Cupboards, cupboard parts
- Bamboo furniture without fabric
- Bed without fabric cover
- Picture frames without glass
- Doors without glass (maximum 2 pieces)
- Wooden chair without upholstery
- Plastic-coated wooden parts (fitted kitchen)
- Slatted frame (if frame is made of wood)

No items may be packed in bags or boxes.

If glass is used in the items, it must be removed.

This does not belong to bulky wood waste

- Wooden elements from outdoor areas (window frames, doors, roller shutters, shutters, wooden shingles, garden furniture, privacy fences, palisades or picket fences)

This belongs to the residual bulky waste

- Coffee parts
- Upholstery elements
- Furniture parts covered with fabric
- Slatted frames (if the frame is made of plastic or metal)
- mattresses
- carpets
- floor covering
- larger plastic parts
- Rattan furniture
- Laminate flooring (must be bundled, maximum edge length 1 metre)

No items may be packed in bags or boxes.

Hazardous waste

Hazardous waste must not be disposed of in the rubbish bin.

It must also not be poured into the toilet.

It can be disposed of free of charge via the hazardous waste mobile.

Small electrical appliances:

- Hair dryer
- irons
- toasters
- Coffee machines
- Hand mixer
- Electronic sewing machine or electric typewriter
- Hand drills
- portable radios

can be handed in free of charge at the municipal building yard [Auf dem Hessel 2](#), during the following collection times:

Fridays: 13:00 - 17:30

Saturdays: 08:30 - 13:30

Large electrical appliances:

- Electric cookers
- Microwave ovens
- Extractor hoods
- Dishwashers
- Washing machines
- Tumble dryers
- Spin dryers
- TV sets

Must be registered with AQA by calling [06051/971033333](tel:06051971033333).

Collection is free of charge.

If you have any questions, please contact the person responsible

Herr Stannek | Fachbereich 2 Steueramt

📍 [Zum Fliegerhorst 1229, 63526 Erlensee](#)

✉ jstannek@erlensee.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 61839151205](tel:+49(0)61839151205)

 <https://www.erlensee.de/>

Insurances

Liability insurance

If you cause unintentional damage to a person in Germany, you must pay compensation according to the law. This applies to personal injury, property damage and financial losses in the private sphere. For example, if you cause a traffic accident or if your child breaks a window pane with a ball.

You can take out private liability insurance to pay for this damage for you and your family. You do not have to have liability insurance, but it is the most important private insurance and is highly recommended. Otherwise, you could face high costs in the event of a claim. Many landlords and landladies want you to have private liability insurance.

Read the contract carefully, compare the costs, pay attention to the sum insured and the term. If you don't understand something, seek advice. Report any damage to the insurance company immediately. The insurance company must clarify whether you are liable for the damage.

Motor vehicle liability insurance


In Germany, anyone who owns a vehicle and wants to drive it (vehicle owner) must take out motor vehicle insurance. Without this insurance, the car cannot be registered. This covers any damage you cause to other vehicles or people. This also applies to motorbikes.

Conclude contracts

Contracts

In Germany, freedom of contract applies. For example, if you want to rent a flat, have electricity in your home, use a smartphone or go to a gym, you must conclude a contract orally or in writing. Pay attention to the content of the contract: How much does the contract cost? Are there monthly costs? Do the costs increase after a few months? How long does the contract run for? Does it renew automatically? How long is the cancellation period? Compare different offers carefully and take your time to decide.

Contracts are binding and must be honoured. They can usually only be cancelled within the notice period. If you are not sure that you can pay the costs, do not sign! Debts can quickly build up.

 Do not sign anything that you cannot read or do not understand. You may be signing a contract or agreement that you did not want. Don't let anyone pressure you into signing anything! Do not sign any contracts over the phone. If you have signed something, you sometimes have 2 weeks to cancel it. Do something immediately! If you need support, go to the [consumer advice centre](#).

Radio and television

Broadcasting contribution

Independent reporting is very important. Germany has independent radio, television and online programmes. ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio offer this. They report free from economic and political influences. Everyone pays money for this. This is called the licence fee.

The law stipulates that a licence fee must be paid for every home in Germany. However, only one person per home has to pay the licence fee. This costs €18.36 per month. The money must be paid to the ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio contribution service. You can find more information in the following information sheet. Here in plain language. Alternatively on the broadcasting licence fee website. The website is available in several languages.

Some people can be exempted from paying the licence fee. For example, if you receive benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act or other social benefits. An application must be submitted for exemption from the licence fee.

💡 You can find the application for exemption [here](#).

🌐 Further information about the licence fee can be found [here](#).

Support in completing and forwarding applications for exemption from or reduction of the licence fee is provided by the

City of Erlensee - Department of Family and Social Affairs, Social Welfare Office / Application SGB II/XII

📍 [Zum Fliegerhorst 1229, 63526 Erlensee](#), Zimmer 213

☎ [061839151507](tel:061839151507)

@azeidler@erlensee.de

Telephone, TV and Internet

You are free to choose your telephone, TV and Internet provider, i.e. you must conclude a contract yourself. Pay attention to the contract term and the costs and compare the offer with other providers.

Internet and Free WIFI

Mobile Internet

You have mobile Internet on your mobile phone. This is very practical. You can search for something on the Internet while you are on the move. You can also search for an address. The Internet costs money. It is best to have a contract. This contract can be a fixed-term contract or a prepaid contract. You can find more information [here](#).


💡 You do not need internet to use Integreat.

WLAN at home

If you want to have Internet in your own home, you need a router. There are various companies that can sell you a router and a contract.

Public, free WLAN hotspots

Free WLAN is available at several locations (hotspots). You can surf the internet there with your own device.

 [Here](#) you will find an app with which you can find public hotspots in your neighbourhood.

Telephone and mobile phone

Telephone

Germany has the international dialling code 0049 or +49. The area codes and mobile phone numbers begin with 0 (for example Erlensee: 06183. For calls from abroad or with +49, the 0 is omitted (for example +49 6183).

Mobile phone

There are two different mobile phone contracts in Germany: Prepaid contract and fixed-term contract. The prepaid contract has no fixed contract term. You top up your mobile phone with a certain amount of money. A fixed-term contract has a minimum contract period: this contract is automatically renewed if you do not cancel it. If you do not want the contract to be renewed automatically, you must cancel in writing. Pay attention to the cancellation period. With fixed-term contracts, you usually get a mobile phone at a very favourable price. It is not free, you pay for it through the cost of the contract!

Before you sign a contract, inform yourself and think about what you need and what is particularly important to you. Important questions when concluding a contract:

- How high is the basic fee? Does the fee increase after a certain period of time?
- Is there a minimum monthly turnover (minimum cost per month)?
- How long is the contract (12 or 24 months)?
- If I do not cancel the contract, will it be automatically renewed?
- When do I have to cancel if I don't want to renew the contract?
- How much does it cost to set up, switch and deactivate?
- What is the billing cycle? Do I have to pay for every minute or part thereof?
- How much does a minute cost (external/own network)?
- How much does a mobile phone with a contract cost and how much does a mobile phone without a contract cost?
- How much does Internet cost?
- How much do international calls cost?

Think about which flat rate is best for you and pay attention to what is not included in the flat rate and what costs are then incurred.

Taxes and tax returns

Taxes are important. They help the state to function. They provide the state with money for public spending. It can be used to build roads. It is used to pay teachers and police officers. It finances many important things.

You pay taxes everywhere. When you go shopping, when you eat out, when you fill up with petrol. That's the **sales tax**. And when you work. That's **income tax**.

You have to pay tax on your income in Germany.

If you are employed, you will receive the net amount of your salary from your employer each month by bank transfer, i.e. your taxes have already been deducted.

If you are self-employed, you must pay tax on your income yourself.

If you are employed, you **can** submit a tax return; if you are self-employed, you **must** submit a tax return.

Tax identification number

The tax identification number (tax ID) is an 11-digit number and is used for income tax purposes. The place of work requires this number. If you do not have this number in your documents, you can request it in person at the [service office](#) or in writing from the [Federal Central Tax Office](#).

Filing a **tax return** is no easy task and is often a bureaucratic challenge. It is done via the internet programme ELSTER, the official tax administration programme of the federal and state governments, also known as the "online tax office". You can also turn to a local income tax association for voluntary support, which will do your tax return for you for an annual membership fee.

 Further information can be found on the website of the digital [tax office Hessen](#). (German)

Living

You have found a flat. Congratulations. You are renting this flat from a person. This person is your landlord or landlady. You sign a contract with this person. The contract says that you are allowed to live in the flat. It is called a tenancy agreement. The tenancy agreement regulates the rights and obligations. You have rights and obligations. And your landlord or landlady has rights and obligations. For example, you have to pay money every month. This is the rent. Your landlord or landlady must leave the flat to you. He or she must also take care of repairs to the flat.

Tenancy agreement

The tenancy agreement is an important document. It states the price of the flat. It also states whether you are allowed to smoke or do laundry in the flat. Everything is set out in writing in the contract. Don't understand something in the contract? Ask about it. It's best to do this before you sign the contract.

The tenancy agreement sets out the most important information about the flat and the amount of rent. Always ask for a written tenancy agreement, do not pay anything until the tenancy agreement has been signed! Read the tenancy agreement carefully, you must understand everything.

When handing over the flat, record any damage in the handover protocol. Take photos of the damage. Check the meter readings (electricity, water, gas if applicable) and write down how many keys were handed over.

Deposit

The deposit is a security for the landlord and must not exceed 3 basic rents. When you move out, the deposit will be returned to you. If you leave any damage in the flat when you move out, this will be deducted from the deposit. You can pay the deposit in instalments. If you receive money from the JobCentre, you will receive a loan for the deposit. You will then receive less money each month until the loan is paid off.

Rent and ancillary costs

The rent consists of the net rent and the service charges. You also pay the service charges every month. This is how you pay running costs. These include the cleaning of the stairwell or the garden labourer. You also pay for rubbish collection. These service charges are shared by all residents of the building. People with larger flats pay more.

The landlord must draw up a service charge statement showing the actual costs. This is offset against the monthly payment. If the costs are higher, the tenant has to pay extra, if the costs are lower, he gets money back.

Gas / electricity

Heating costs are sometimes included in the service charges. They are calculated according to consumption. Gas and electricity usually have to be paid directly to a supplier. You are free to choose your supplier and can switch within a certain period of time. You pay a flat rate every month and once a year the exact consumption is offset against the flat rate paid.

💡 Keep an eye on your heating and energy costs, otherwise you may have to pay a lot of extra money. Better still, [save energy](#) and you'll get money back!

Key

Only you have a key to your flat. Take good care of your key. Have you lost the key? Then you need a locksmith. A locksmith can be expensive. Sometimes the landlord or landlady needs access to your home. Sometimes other people also need access to your home. You must be informed of the visit. This is often done by post or telephone. This may be particularly necessary if a tradesperson needs to enter your home. They want to repair something in your home. Or the municipal utilities or your energy supplier need to read how much water or electricity you have used.

Cancellation


Germany protects tenants and landlords. You can't simply give notice of cancellation overnight. You must give your landlord or landlady at least three months' notice. Always give notice of cancellation in writing. Have your cancellation confirmed. Do you need help? Then go to your help centre. The tenants' association can also help. But you will have to pay money.


Housing benefit

Housing benefit is a state subsidy towards the cost of housing for people on low incomes. It depends on the number of household members, the total income and the rent amount. You can obtain an application from the housing benefit authority or from your town or municipality.


Contact persons:

Stadt Erlensee - Sozialamt/Antragsstellung SGB II/XII

 [Zum Fliegerhorst 1229, 63526 Erlensee](#)

 [06183/9151507](tel:061839151507)

 @azeidler@erlensee.de

 Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m., Monday 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

If you receive benefits from the JobCentre or the Social Welfare Office, you cannot usually apply for housing benefit. Ask for advice. People who receive asylum seeker benefits do not receive housing benefit.

Saving energy and behaviour in an emergency

Saving energy, heating and ventilation

You can save a lot of money in Germany by saving energy. The [consumer advice centre](#) provides a brochure on this topic in several languages ([German](#), [English](#) and [Turkish](#)).

- Make sure that you ventilate your home regularly and heat it properly. This will prevent mould from forming.
- When ventilating, open the windows fully 3 times a day for 5 minutes. Tilting the windows does not help!
- Ventilate after showering, cooking and in the morning after getting up!
- Heat your home sufficiently, do not place furniture in front of the heating and do not hang curtains in front of the heating.
- Move the furniture on the outside walls 10 cm away from the wall so that the air can move behind it.
- Check regularly to see if mould is forming in the cold corners. If mould develops, remove it quickly!
- Heating costs are expensive
- To avoid high heating bills, turn the heating down at night and when you leave the house!
- Dress warmer in winter: Wear long-sleeved jumpers, long trousers/skirts and socks indoors.
- Carpets keep you warm from underneath.

The Protestant parish publishes a brochure on saving energy in [Dari](#) and [Arabic](#).

Behaviour in the event of a power cut

The power supply in Germany is very reliable. If a power cut does occur, please note the following:

- Keep calm and do not call 110 or 112. It is not an emergency.
- Check whether your neighbours have also lost power.
- Check the fuses in the house.
- Switch off all electrical appliances.
- Pay attention to loudspeaker announcements in the street.

Never use a gas barbecue or charcoal grill indoors. There is a risk of suffocation!

Be prepared for an emergency

You should be prepared in case of a prolonged power cut. You should have the following in the house

- Water and food for 10 days
- Battery-powered radio with fresh batteries
- Charged power banks or solar-powered chargers
- Toiletries and possibly baby food
- Warm clothing, warm underwear
- Torches, camping lamps or candles
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Cash. Cash machines do not work without electricity.

Food is recommended per person for 10 days:

- 10 litres of water (for drinking and cooking)
- 3.5 kilos of bread, potatoes, pasta and rice
- 4 kilos of vegetables and pulses
- 2.5 kilos of fruit (tinned or jarred) and nuts
- 1.5 kilos of meat, fish, eggs (tinned or jarred)
- 0.4 kilos of oil, butter or margarine
- Sugar, sweetener, honey, jam, chocolate, salt, flour, biscuits, pretzel sticks

Religion

Religious freedom

Freedom of religion applies in Germany. This is guaranteed by the Basic Law. You can practise your faith as you see fit, as long as you do not violate the Basic Law. You may also not be discriminated against on the basis of your religion, for example when looking for work. Religious freedom also means accepting the beliefs of others. Germany does not have a state church. State and religion are separate.

This means, for example:

- All people are free to choose and practise their religion and beliefs.
- All people have the freedom not to be religious. Anyone who does not believe in God is allowed to say so publicly.
- People of different religions and beliefs may marry each other.
- Marriage only counts as a legally valid marriage before the registry office. Marriages entered into exclusively within the framework of a religion are not legally binding in Germany.
- Religious laws do not determine the legal system in Germany.

Practice of religion

There are many different religions in Germany. Many people follow a particular religion. They organise themselves in their own communities. For example, in a church, mosque or synagogue.

Contact with a community is important. Here you can celebrate worship together. It makes it easier to socialise with your fellow human beings. There are various groups or meetings for this. Find out more on the community's website. You can also call or introduce yourself in person.

Religious communities in Erlensee

Langendiebach Protestant Church

📍 [Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 4, 63526 Erlensee](#)

Protestant Church Rückingen

📍 [Hauptstraße, 63526 Erlensee](#)

Parish office Evangelical Church Erlensee

📍 [Rodenbacher Straße 8, 63526 Erlensee](#)

☎ [061832369](tel:061832369)

✉ @pfarramt2.erlensee@ekkw.de

✉ @pfarramt3.erlensee@ekkw.de

🕒 Opening hours:

Monday to Wednesday: 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Thursday: 8.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

🌐 [Protestant Church Erlensee](#)

Catholic Church "Christkönig"

📍 [Waldstraße 26, 63526 Erlensee](#)

Catholic parish office

📍 [Waldstraße 26, 63526 Erlensee](#)

☎ [061832363](tel:061832363)

✉ @pfarrei.erlensee@bistum-fulda.de

🕒 Opening hours:

Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 15:00 to 17:00

🌐 [Catholic Church Erlensee](#)

Ditib Erlensee Fatih Mosque

📍 [Hainstraße 63, 63526 Erlensee](#)

🕒 Opening hours: daily from 6:00 to 23:00

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and inter* (LGBTI)

Many different people live together in Germany. They have different religions. They are of different genders. They come from different countries. They have different political views. All these people live together peacefully. They have the same rights.


The same applies to people of different sexual orientations or gender identities: these include lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and intersex people. In short, they are called LSTBI. They have the same rights in Germany as other people.


There are three genders in Germany. These are "male", "female" and "diverse". Transgender people can change their gender in Germany. They can also have their name changed. Women are allowed to love and marry other women in Germany. Men are allowed to love and marry other men in Germany.

Many LGBTI people have fled to Germany because they were persecuted in their home country. Are you a refugee and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex? Then you can contact one of the many LGBTI organisations in Germany. There you will find support, social contacts and information. The LSVD project "Queer Refugees Deutschland" has contact details for these organisations. You will also find further information:

Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany (LSVD)

Queer Refugees Germany" project

 www.queer-refugees.de

 queer-refugees@lsvd.de