




Search for a flat

Start looking for a flat

The first step in any househunting process is to consider:


- what exactly are you looking for (your own flat or a room in a shared flat)?
- how high may the rent be (see also [Rent an apartment / rental contract](#))?
- what requirements does the flat have to meet (size, location, suitable for disabled people, etc.)?


Search via newspaper

Many landlords still advertise their vacant flats in the local daily newspapers - as they did in the times before the internet. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, the local daily newspapers in Hannover,  [HAZ](#) and  [NP](#), publish accommodation adverts. Since both newspapers are issued by the same publishing house, the advertisements are identical. So, if it comes to househunting, it doesn't matter which of the two newspapers you choose. Furthermore, it is worthwhile to take a look at the advertising journals, such as  [Der Heiße Draht](#).

Searching via the internet

The largest commercial flat portals are  [immobilienscout24.de](#),  [immonet.de](#),  [wohnungsboerse.net](#) and  [immowelt.de](#). These platforms also allow prospective tenants to create a profile and upload an application portfolio - the landlords then use this as a basis to select applicants whom they invite to view the apartments. These platforms are mainly used by property management companies and estate agents, but also by private flat owners. Flats are also offered for rent on  [ebay-Kleinanzeigen](#). Please note that estate agents usually charge agency fees of 2-3 months' rent.





Another online source are the websites of municipal housing companies such as  [hanova Wohnen GmbH](#), commercial real estate companies or property management companies that advertise their flats on their own website.

The municipal pension fund of the city of Hannover (Zusatzversorgungskasse) offers its vacant flats  [here](#), for example.

There are also local groups on facebook about finding a flat and there are email newsletters offering flats.

Registering with housing associations

Housing associations or cooperatives are large providers of rental housing. The purpose of these associations/cooperatives is to provide low-cost housing for their members. Therefore, you have to become a member of the association or cooperative to be able to rent a flat here. These five Hanoverian cooperatives are mentioned here as examples, there are more:

-  [Heimkehr eG](#)
-  [Gartenheim eG](#)
-  [Ostland Wohnungsgenossenschaft eG](#)
-  [Selbsthilfe Linden eG](#)

-  [Spar- und Bauverein eG](#)


Shared flats / WG (Wohngemeinschaft)

WG is short for "Wohngemeinschaft" and describes an arrangement where several people live in the same flat and split the costs for shared facilities such as kitchen and bathroom. Prices vary considerably depending on the location and the size of the flat. Online offers of rooms in shared flats can be found, for example, at  [wg-gesucht.de](#)

Apartment viewing

Before an apartment is rented out there is often an apartment viewing. Usually several people interested in the apartment are invited to view it at the same time. Since affordable housing is rare in Hanover, many people apply for each apartment. It is therefore very important to obtain important documents such as a SCHUFA report or a tenant self-disclosure in good time. This can increase the chances of getting an apartment.

It is advisable to compile the documents into an "application folder" and take it with you to the viewing appointment. The application folder could contain the following documents, for example:

- Covering letter (who am I/are we, what do I do for a living, how old are my children, why would I like to rent the flat).
-  [Tenant self-disclosure](#)
- Copy of your passport/residence permit (Attention: copy front and back)
Proof of your income