

## Waste separation and deposit

**Waste separation** means that different types of waste are collected and recycled separately. In Germany, waste separation starts directly with the consumer. This means that every household has to sort its own waste and throw it into different bins and containers. The majority of waste in Germany is recycled and composted, which conserves resources and protects the environment. Basically, avoiding waste is still the easiest way to do something about the growing mountains of rubbish.

If you throw something in the wrong bin, the employees or sorting facilities at the recycling centres will have to sort it again. If we all sort correctly, we can avoid this effort, reduce costs and do something for the environment.

### What goes in which bin?

The waste bins in Germany have different colours. The colours show you which waste can go in which bin. In large cities, the bins are often located right next to the house. In the countryside, you may have to drive to a recycling centre to find all the bins. Or you may have to wait for the next collection date for certain rubbish. In the meantime, you can store the rubbish in your garage or cellar, for example. You can find out when which waste is collected in the so-called "waste calendar", which you can find in your letterbox every year or collect from the town hall.

💡 Only certain rubbish may be thrown into each bin!

### Waste separation in the Lahn-Dill district:

[🌐 https://www.awld.de/de/Infothek/Flyer/AWLD-Nonver...](https://www.awld.de/de/Infothek/Flyer/AWLD-Nonver...)

[🌐 https://www.awld.de/de/Infothek/Flyer/FIN-17269-F...](https://www.awld.de/de/Infothek/Flyer/FIN-17269-F...)

[🌐 https://www.awld.de/de/Infothek/Flyer/Flyer-Gebue...](https://www.awld.de/de/Infothek/Flyer/Flyer-Gebue...)

### Do I have to separate my rubbish?

Yes, waste separation is compulsory in Germany. Everyone must separate their waste correctly and put it in the right bins. If you do not follow the rules on waste separation, your landlord can give you a warning. If you do not change your behaviour, you may even lose your flat. Your landlord will also charge you for the costs incurred as a result of incorrect waste separation. If you own your own home, incorrect waste separation will increase your waste disposal bill. Incorrect waste separation is also an offence. If you are caught, you will have to pay a fine. If you repeatedly fail to separate waste or separate it incorrectly, this fine can even amount to several hundred or thousand euros.

### What do I need to know about "deposits"?

In Germany, there is a so-called "deposit obligation" for certain beverage containers. If you buy plastic and glass bottles or drinks cans in the supermarket, you pay a few cents more for them. If you return them empty later to the empties collection point in a supermarket (usually a vending machine), you get this money back. This is called a "deposit". There are two different types of these special bottles:

On **disposable bottles** (which are recycled) you will find a square sign with a can and a bottle surrounded by an arrow. This is the logo of Deutsche Pfand-System GmbH. You will receive a 25 cent deposit back on bottles or cans with this symbol.

On **returnable bottles** (which are washed and refilled) you will either find no labelling at all, a "blue angel" or the words "returnable (bottle)", "returnable bottle" or "deposit bottle". You get a 15 cent deposit back for returnable bottles. For beer bottles it is 8 cents.

💡 Beverage cartons are deposit-free.

💡 If you don't have the time or inclination to return your returnable bottles yourself, you can also place them in a clearly visible place next to a rubbish bin on the street. There are many people in Germany who collect these bottles to earn a little extra money.