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Living and everyday life

Living

House hunting and furniture shopping

Are you looking for your own flat? It is currently difficult to find one. It often takes several months to find a suitable flat.

Before you start looking for a flat, you should ask yourself these questions:

- What exactly are you looking for? Do you want your own flat? Or a room in a shared flat?
- What requirements must the flat fulfil? How big should it be? Where should it be located? Should it be handicapped accessible?
- How high can the rent be? Please also note the information on possible benefits from the [Job Centre](#).

💡 A list with all the important [abbreviations](#) will help you to understand the flat adverts.

You can search for a flat here:

Newspaper

Many landlords and landladies advertise in daily newspapers. These are important newspapers in the region:

- [Sächsische Zeitung](#)
- [Lausitzer Rundschau](#)
- [Wochenkurier](#) and
- [Niederschlesischer Kurier](#).

💡 The Wochenkurier and the Niederschlesische Kurier appear free of charge every weekend. The newspapers often contain housing offers.

Internet

You can find most of the flats on offer on the Internet. For example on the following online portals:

🌐 [ImmobilienScout 24](#)

🌐 [Wohnungsbörse](#)

🌐 [Immowelt](#)

🌐 [Immonet](#)

🌐 [Ebay-Kleinanzeigen](#)

🌐 Facebook (there are various groups with housing offers in the district Görlitz)

Housing associations and housing co-operatives

Housing associations and housing co-operatives offer private housing. Registration or reservation is required.

Viewing and furnishing a flat

You view the flat together with the landlord or the estate agent.

💡 In Germany, it is customary to rent the flat empty (without furniture).

💡 Do you receive benefits from the job centre? Then you can **apply** for an **initial allowance for furniture and furnishings**. You will receive a lump sum for this. This depends on the number of people, the size of the flat and the equipment required. Initial furnishings include furniture, mattresses and household effects. These are, for example, kitchen appliances and crockery. If not available in the flat, this also includes the cooker and electrical appliances. These are, for example, the refrigerator and washing machine. **It is important that the application is submitted before the furniture is purchased.**

👤 Information for refugees: If you move out of shared accommodation (GU), you are not allowed to take your furniture with you. That's why you need new furniture for your first home. You can submit an application for initial equipment to the job centre.

💡 **Attention:** It can take some time before the money for the initial equipment is paid out! The job centre can inspect the flat. This allows the job centre to check the necessity of the initial equipment. Employees of the Job Centre will come to your home for this purpose. Do you already have furniture in your home that is not demonstrably (in writing!) borrowed (for example an emergency bed)? Then you are not entitled to financial support for these items (initial equipment).

Contact points for buying furniture

Furniture and other furnishings can be purchased at furniture stores. It is also possible to buy used items cheaply. This could be furniture. This can also be clothing, toys or other useful things. Used items are often of good quality. They are cheaper than items you buy new.

💡 Would you like to settle into your new flat? But you don't have the tools? You can also borrow tools. For example, you can do this for free in the Rabryka in Görlitz. You can also have broken devices repaired there. Feel free to ask at Rabryka.

🌐 <https://www.rabryka.eu/projekte/detail/13-Makersp...>

You can find contact points here:

Here you can find the district's swap and giveaway market Görlitz. It is a virtual marketplace.

🌐 <https://www.verschenkemarkt-kreis-goerlitz.de/>

Ebersbach-Neugersdorf

📍 [Kleiderkammer Ebersbach-Neugersdorf](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 35852139035](tel:+4935852139035)

@sekretariat@drk-loebau.de

Görlitz

[!\[\]\(dfbd6b3763a6d1d9afaa974f64e2e4b5_img.jpg\) Social furniture service Görlitz](#)

[!\[\]\(e78f798d4ea5c530c9db49e7d26e6b95_img.jpg\) https://goerlitzsozial.de/](https://goerlitzsozial.de/)

[!\[\]\(23d9fc146e83b5c3013cfa32c784f8d5_img.jpg\) Red Cross shop Görlitz \(Rote Kreuz Laden\)](#)

[!\[\]\(c694a3ff3b077d76910920a6a1593ab4_img.jpg\) https://www.drk-goerlitz.de/kleiderladen/rot-kreu...](https://www.drk-goerlitz.de/kleiderladen/rot-kreu...)

[!\[\]\(ec9132f1d27c8919987d92907322654d_img.jpg\) Sapos Görlitz](#)

[!\[\]\(05be7c7a8995decd503647c99211f7c2_img.jpg\) https://www.sapos-goerlitz.de/index.php/fundgrube...](https://www.sapos-goerlitz.de/index.php/fundgrube...)

[!\[\]\(aa53ad6fea213b8b2226d3077e30533a_img.jpg\) Free wagon in the Rabryka \(Umsonstwagen\)](#)

[!\[\]\(dd161862f9164df98f62b726e9846241_img.jpg\) https://www.rabryka.eu/projekte/detail/59-Umsonst...](https://www.rabryka.eu/projekte/detail/59-Umsonst...)

Löbau

[!\[\]\(fe3aebe81acea8d45108cd2768939da7_img.jpg\) Clothes store Löbau](#)

[!\[\]\(626ce8ac21792b9405bfddfea8e0c96a_img.jpg\) http://drkloeb1.drk-hosting.de/leichte-sprache/an...](http://drkloeb1.drk-hosting.de/leichte-sprache/an...)

Weißwasser

[!\[\]\(248b91fcdac4810ffd15cf33fb6aec6f_img.jpg\) Social market Weißwasser](#)

[!\[\]\(899d8b7697d64725bf017d3296cfcf1b_img.jpg\) Social market Bad Muskau](#)

[!\[\]\(c1168d6a8b365d11e842ece304635fa7_img.jpg\) https://www.drk-weisswasser.de/start/angebote/eng...](https://www.drk-weisswasser.de/start/angebote/eng...)

Zittau

[!\[\]\(d3e32d099174a7c248ec1f564ee4f69c_img.jpg\) Clothes store Zittau](#)

[!\[\]\(40770d9ed6ed4f1222ebf89a1396e8b2_img.jpg\) https://www.drk-zittau.de/angebote/existenzsicher...](https://www.drk-zittau.de/angebote/existenzsicher...)

[!\[\]\(ccd39a0dc6d5afcc151e1371f9462f58_img.jpg\) Social department stores' "Eurolino", Zittau](#)

[!\[\]\(c724c83fe216b2427610afdbd31f92cc_img.jpg\) https://www.dfb-zittau.de/#profil](https://www.dfb-zittau.de/#profil)

[!\[\]\(1f99bf65f43889da445ecc1fe8d9504f_img.jpg\) Clothes store & Tailoring room Zittau](#)

[!\[\]\(8b0a097b4b9c9c3eeaea0f4289ea77e5_img.jpg\) https://vbff-zittau.de/#](https://vbff-zittau.de/#)

[!\[\]\(a2bb1e57b467f1e41142026aa73db90f_img.jpg\) Social furniture market Zittau](#)

[!\[\]\(89a5017cdd03c2e4afc4be6aed118419_img.jpg\) https://www.abs-robur.de/willkommen](https://www.abs-robur.de/willkommen)

Rent and rental agreement

You have found a flat. You rent this flat from one person. This person is your landlord or landlady. You conclude 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. That is the rent. Your landlord or landlady must let you use the flat. He or she must also take care of repairs to the flat.

💡 Some landlords and landladies request a **Schufacredit report** before concluding a contract. Schufa this means "Schutzgemeinschaft für allgemeine Kreditsicherung". It contains information on people's ability to pay. This is also known as creditworthiness. You can go to the website of the Schufa Holding AG to request a self-disclosure online and free of charge. All you have to do is fill in the relevant order form and send it off.

🌐 <https://www.schufa.de/themenportal/21-01-schufa-auskunft-mietvertrag/index.jsp>

The tenancy agreement is an important document. It contains the price of the flat.

💡 Rent + additional costs = rent including heating

There are also rules there. For example, whether you are allowed to smoke in the flat.

Everything is set out in writing in the contract. Don't understand something in the contract?

Ask for it. Ideally before you sign the contract.

The rent consists of the net cold rent and the ancillary costs. You also pay the service charges every month. This pays for your running costs. These include cleaning the stairwell and garden labour. You also use it to pay for waste collection. These ancillary costs are shared by all residents of the building. People with larger flats pay more.

Only you have a key to your flat. Take good care of the key. Have you lost the key? Then a locksmith has to come. A locksmith service can be expensive.

🌐 You can find more information about the locksmith service in various languages on the consumer advice centre's "[Checklists for refugees and migrants](#)" page

Sometimes the landlord or landlady needs access to your flat. Sometimes other people also need access to your home. You must be informed about the visit. This is often done by post or telephone or by posting notices in the building. This may be particularly necessary if a tradesperson needs to enter your home. They want to repair something on your premises. Or the municipal utilities or your energy supplier must read off how much water or electricity you have used.

Do you want to cancel?

Germany protects tenants and landlords. You cannot simply cancel your contract from one day to the next. You must write to your landlord or landlady at least three months in advance. Always give notice of cancellation in writing. Have a cancellation confirmed. Do you need help? Then go to your [helper group](#). The tenants' association also helps. But you have to pay money.

Security deposit

The deposit is security for the landlord. The maximum amount for the deposit is 3 basic rents. If you move out of the flat, you will get the money back.

Important: You must not leave any damage behind when you move out of the flat. Otherwise the costs for the damage will be deducted from the deposit and you will not get this money back.

The [job centre](#) can grant the deposit on a loan basis upon application. As a rule, this is unproblematic and is approved if the accommodation costs are reasonable. The deposit is usually paid directly to the landlord or landlady by the job centre. The repayment of the loan to the job centre is automatically deducted from the monthly standard benefits (normally max. 5% of these) and retained.

Broadcasting fees

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 together. That means the licence fee.

The law stipulates: 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 euros per month. The money must be paid to the contribution service of ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio must be paid.

🌐 Further information can be found 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 payment. 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](#).

Housing benefit

You and the people living in your household earn little money. Then you can get a subsidised flat.

💡 **You may need a residence entitlement certificate for this.** Housing entitlement certificates are available in the district Görlitz only for the city Görlitz and the city Zittau. You must apply for a housing entitlement certificate in the federal state or city (municipal administration, housing office) in which you are looking for social housing.

👥 Refugees with a notice of recognition from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)) can generally receive a certificate of eligibility for housing (WBS), even if they have not yet been issued a residence title.

Under certain conditions, you are also entitled to housing benefit. If you receive money from the state for yourself and your family, you do not usually need to apply for housing benefit.

Housing benefit offices

[Landkreis Görlitz](#) (except city Görlitz and city Zittau)

[City Görlitz](#)

[City Zittau](#)

You live in the city Görlitz? Then submit the application for housing benefit directly to the city Görlitz.

You live in the city Zittau? Then submit the application for housing benefit directly to the city Zittau.

You live in the district Görlitz and not in the city Zittau and not in the city Görlitz? Then apply for housing benefit directly to the district of Görlitz.

Benefits from the job centre

If you are unemployed and receive benefits from the [job centre](#) , the job centre will pay the rent. However, only if you are in need of assistance and the rent is reasonable (not too high). Each job centre sets its own upper rent limit.

In the administrative regulation of the district Görlitz on the costs of accommodation and heating in accordance with SGB II the upper rent limits for the district are Görlitz are set from 01.02.2023. You can find this regulation [here](#).

Cost absorption by the job centre - What do I need to bear in mind?

Important: If you have found a flat and the rent is paid by the job centre , you must not sign the tenancy agreement straight away. The [job centre](#) must check and approve the appropriateness of the accommodation costs before concluding the contract. This is possible during regular opening hours without an appointment. The Jobcentre 's decision on appropriateness and acceptance of the deposit will be communicated immediately in a written rental confirmation. It is important that a tenancy agreement or at least a rental offer with all the minimum details of the flat is already available. It is important to note that the tenancy agreement must already be signed by the landlord or landlady, but not by the tenant.

The following points must be included in the rental agreement:

- Name and address of the landlord or landlady
- Address of the rental property
- Living space in m²
- Number of rooms
- Amount of the net cold rent
- Amount of operating costs
- Amount of heating costs
- Total rent
- Amount of the deposit

Basic rules and house rules

When you have moved into the flat, you should think about this:

- Write your name on the doorbell and on the letterbox so that you can receive mail
- Register your place of residence at the relevant [residents' registration office](#)
- Notify your employer, bank, health insurance company and others of your new address
- Register [electricity](#) and perhaps also gas
- Register with [GEZ](#)

Having your own home also means taking responsibility for it.

- Read the house rules
- Separate waste (you can find detailed information [here](#).)

- Ventilate your home regularly
- Do not place any objects (shoes, cupboards) in the stairwell
- In an emergency, escape routes must be clear!

House rules

There are often several people living in one house. Rules are needed so that they can live well together. These rules are laid down in the house rules. The [rest period](#) is important in Germany. Have a look at your house rules to see what time it has to be quiet. This is often the whole Sunday. On the other days this is often from 10 pm.

The most important contents of house rules are

- Quiet times/noise
- [Waste disposal](#)
- Use of the common areas
- Ventilate

Waste separation and deposit

Waste separation means that different types of waste are collected and recycled separately. In Germany, waste separation begins directly with the consumer. This means that every household has to sort its own waste and throw it into different bins and containers. A large proportion of waste in Germany is recycled and composted, which conserves resources and protects the environment. In principle, the following applies: 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 separate waste correctly, we avoid this effort, reduce costs and do something for the environment.

What goes in which bin?

Waste bins in Germany come in different colours. The colours show you which waste is allowed in which bin. In large cities, rubbish 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 they wait for the next collection date for certain rubbish. In the meantime, 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 district administration office Görlitz .

Responsible for waste disposal in the district is Görlitz the

Waste management company

📍 [Muskauer Straße 51 02906 Niesky](#)

☎ [03588261701 Pages](#)

@ info@aw-goerlitz.de

🌐 aw.landkreis.gr

- 💡 Only certain types of waste may be thrown into each bin! You can find an overview [here](#).
- 💡 You are also welcome to use the district's waste app Görlitz. This app is available free of charge in [Google Play](#) and the [Apple App Store](#).
- 💡 Glass containers are disposed of in the glass container.
- 💡 Batteries, chemicals, paints and technical equipment as well as broken furniture are hazardous waste. Please inform yourself about the correct disposal.

Good to know: There is a pollutant mobile in the district of Görlitz. Pollutants include old medicines, disinfectants, cleaning agents and aerosol cans.

🗑️ You can find more information about hazardous waste and the mobile hazardous waste collection centre on the [district's website](#).

When does the mobile hazardous waste collection unit come to your town? Current dates can be found on the website of Entsorgungsgesellschaft Görlitz-Löbau-Zittau mbH.

🌐 <https://www.abfall-eglz.de/service/schadstoffmobil.html>

Do I have to separate the rubbish?

Yes, waste separation is mandatory in Germany. Everyone must separate their rubbish correctly and throw it in the right bins. If you do not comply with the rules on waste separation, your landlord or landlady can give you a warning. If you don't change your behaviour, you could even lose your home. Your landlord or landlady can 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 administrative 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 "deposit"?

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 later return them empty to the empties collection point in a supermarket (usually a vending machine), you will 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 the Deutschen Pfand-System GmbH. You will receive a 25 cent deposit on bottles or cans with this symbol.

On **reusable bottles** (which are washed and refilled) you will either find no labelling at all, a "blue angel" or the word "Mehrweg(-Flasche)", "returnable bottle" or "deposit bottle". You will receive a 15 cent deposit 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 deposit 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.

Energy and environment

You need gas and electricity for your home. This allows you to operate various devices. You probably cook with electricity or gas. Your washing machine also needs electricity. And your mobile phone anyway. Some appliances consume more than others. That's why you should always pay attention to energy consumption when buying a new appliance. Many devices even draw power in standby mode even though they are actually switched off. The most energy-efficient option is a switchable power strip. Several devices can then be disconnected from the power supply with a single click.

💡 Everyone has to pay the electricity costs themselves. Also the customers of the job centre. Normally, new tenants are automatically registered with the local electricity provider by the landlord or landlady. However, you are free to choose your electricity supplier and can change your electricity supplier after a cancellation period of normally two weeks. The best way to find an overview of providers and price comparisons is via the independent [energy consumer portal](#).

💡 Many houses are heated with gas. You often pay your supplier monthly in advance. This is then recalculated once a year. Sometimes you have to pay extra. Sometimes you get money back. When electricity and gas are expensive, it pays to save money every month. Then you will have enough money if you have to make additional payments.

💡 If you use energy sparingly, you will save money. It's also good for the environment. You can also read about how to heat, ventilate and save energy properly [here](#).

🌐 The [Rhineland-Palatinate Consumer Advice Center](#) (Verbraucherzentrale Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.) has also compiled a few tips in various languages to help keep your first electricity or heating bill affordable. The flyers on energy and housing are available for download in various languages: Arabic, Dari, Farsi, and English.

You need water above all in the bathroom. But also in the kitchen, for cooking and washing up. Saving water pays off in several ways. You then pay less for the water, waste water and also for the energy used to heat the water.

💡 Tips for saving water: Install an economy shower head. Better to take a shower than a bath. Repair dripping taps. Install a flush stop button in the toilet.

Further tips and useful information can be found on the website of the [consumer advice centre](#).

Purchase of new devices

Always pay attention to the energy label when buying new appliances. This shows you how efficient the new appliance is. The energy label can be found on a wide variety of products. For example, on light bulbs, washing machines, televisions or heaters. Energy efficiency classes and information on product features such as electricity and water consumption or noise levels make it easy to compare different appliances. Energy-efficient appliances can save several hundred euros a year.

💡 There is an app for the energy label. It helps to compare energy-relevant information on selected products. The app provides further information on the efficient use of the appliances. The app is available free of charge in German and English in [Google Play](#) and the [Apple App Store](#).

🔍 An overview of [energy labels](#) can be found on the Consumer Advice Center website (Verbraucherzentrale).

Financial matters and contracts

Basic information on contracts

Particularly important: Did you not understand something in the contract? Can't read the document? Then don't sign anything. A signed contract often obliges you to pay money. It is sometimes very difficult to undo this. Always check and compare several offers. Take your time to decide. Do not allow anyone to pressure you into signing.

💡 It is recommended that no purchase or insurance contracts are concluded at the front door. Contracts should only be concluded after detailed consultation with a competent person.

Insurances

Social insurances

There are five statutory insurance schemes in Germany. You must have these insurances. This social insurance system protects you against unemployment, illness, the need for care, occupational accidents and old age. You are automatically insured for pension insurance, accident insurance, long-term care insurance and unemployment insurance. You do not have a selection option there. When it comes to health insurance, you can choose from a wide range of health insurance companies. You can read more about this [here](#).

Supplementary insurance

There are many other insurance companies in Germany. It is not possible to say in general terms whether insurance makes sense for you. Most of them protect you against financial risk. The [consumer advice centre](#) provides information about these additional insurances. You will also find information on questions relating to insurance. The most important is liability insurance. You should definitely have these.

Liability insurance

Have you caused harm to a person without intention? This can be a road accident. Or your child has broken a window pane with a ball. Then you must pay compensation in Germany according to the law. This applies to personal injury, property damage and financial losses in the private sector.

In Germany, you can take out private liability insurance. The insurance pays for these damages for you and your family and children. You can decide for yourself whether you want to take out this insurance. However, it is strongly recommended.

💡 Are you looking for a good offer for personal liability insurance? Ask your [helper organisation](#). The [consumer advice centre](#) also provides information on this topic.


KfZ-Insurance


Motor vehicle insurance (Kfz) must be taken out in Germany by anyone who owns a vehicle and wants to drive it (vehicle owner). The car will not be registered without the insurance. This covers any damage you cause to other vehicles or persons. This also applies to motorbikes.

Information in different languages can be found here:

 [Make it in Germany](#)

Further information can be found here:


 The [Germany handbook](#) provides information about supplementary insurance: What supplementary insurance is there? Which ones are useful?

 There is the [online brochure “The Little ABC in Easy Language: Insurance”](#). The brochure would be produced by BaFin (Federal Financial Supervisory Authority). Important insurance terms are explained there.

SIM card for mobile phone


The mobile communications market in Germany is very large. There are many providers and many different contracts and costs. There are two different types of contracts for SIM cards for mobile phones in Germany: **Prepaid contract** and **fixed-term contract**.

- The prepaid contract has no fixed contract term. You top up your mobile phone with money and can use it to access the Internet or make phone calls.
- A fixed-term contract has a minimum contract term. This is usually 12 to 24 months. This contract is automatically renewed if you do not cancel. If you do not want the contract to be automatically renewed, you must cancel in writing. Pay attention to the deadline.

 Do not sign any contracts if you do not understand them.

Do you want to conclude a contract? Check the conditions carefully beforehand. Ask yourself whether a prepaid contract might suit you better.

With both a fixed-term contract and prepaid, you can choose between three options:

1. With a flat rate, you can make unlimited calls and text messages and use the Internet up to a certain data volume.
2. With an inclusive package, you have a fixed number of units for making calls and sending text messages and a fixed data volume for Internet use. You pay a fixed price for this. If your units are used up, you can book additional units or additional data volume. You will usually have to pay more for this.  **Attention:** With many providers, additional data volume is automatically added when your data volume is used up. This additional data volume can cost a lot of money. It is therefore essential that you switch off the automatic rebooking of data volume (data automatic). You can do this via the online customer portal or your provider's hotline. Ask for written confirmation that the automatic data switch-off has been deactivated.
3. You can also pay directly for every call, every text message and every use of the Internet. This is usually more expensive than with a flat rate or an inclusive package, but you only pay for what you actually use. And there are no hidden costs.

Bezahlkarte and Banks

Payment Card

Are you an adult and receive benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG)? Then you will receive a payment card from the immigration office upon your arrival in the Görlitz district.

What is a payment card?

- The payment card is like a bank card.
- Benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG) are credited to the payment card.
- You can use the payment card to pay in stores. This is possible anywhere you see the VISA symbol.
- You can only spend the amount on the card.
- You can use the payment card to withdraw cash. You can withdraw cash from ATMs. You can also withdraw money at the checkout in some stores. A maximum of €50 per person can be withdrawn per month.



Further information can be found on the online portal: www.socialcard.de

Banks

Would you like to pay money via a bank? Then you need a current account. Your money is available in your current account at all times. Would you like to withdraw money from your account? Or would you like to make cashless payments? You must have enough money in your account for this. Otherwise you will have to pay interest to the bank.

With a current account you can:

- Execute transfers
- Receive cashless payments (payments from offices / authorities / social benefits are often only transferred to a current account)
- Set up standing orders
- participate in direct debiting
- Cash cheques, make cashless payments with your EC or Maestro card
- Withdraw cash at bank counters or ATMs
- Print your account statements

Opening an account

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

- You have opened the account. You will then receive an EC card with a four-digit PIN code by post. Sign the back of the EC card and memorise the PIN code. You need the PIN code for cashless payments. You need the PIN code for cash withdrawals at ATMs. **Always keep your card and PIN code separate!**
- Withdraw money from your bank's ATMs. Then the withdrawal costs nothing. If you enter the PIN code incorrectly three times, the bank will withdraw your card and block it. In this case, you must ask your bank.
- Have you lost your EC card? Has your EC card been stolen? Then have the EC card blocked immediately. Say your sort code and account number. Then ask your bank for a new EC card.
☎ [116116](tel:116116)
🕒 Around the clock.

💡 Different banks offer current accounts at different conditions. Find out exactly how much a current account costs each month. Compare the services offered by the bank.

💡 At the [Sparkasse Oberlausitz-Niederschlesien](#) it is currently only possible for asylum seekers to open an account at the main office.

📍 [02826 Görlitz, Berliner Str. 64](#)

✉ asylbetreuung@spk-on.de

☎ [035836033131](tel:035836033131)

💡 Please make an appointment one week in advance.

💡 If you do not speak German or English, please bring an [interpreter or language mediator](#) with you.

📖 Important terms are explained in the [online brochure "The Little ABC in Easy Language: Banks"](#). For example, you read: What is a loan? What does Schufa mean? What is a standing order?

Taxes and tax returns

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

You pay taxes everywhere. When shopping, eating out, refuelling. This is the **sales tax**. And at work. This is the **income tax**. Are you employed? Then your employer has already offset the taxes. Are you self-employed? You will then have to pay tax on your income yourself.

Tax identification number

The tax ID is an 11-digit number and is used for income tax purposes. The number is valid for the rest of your life. The authorities can always identify you with this number. Your workplace requires this number. You don't have this number in your records? You can obtain these in person from the registration office. Or by form at the [Federal Central Tax Office](#).

💡 Do you need help with your tax return? It is best to contact your local income tax association. If you have any further questions, the [tax office Görlitz](#) can also help you.

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 travelling. 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. Further information can be found on the "[Financial matters and contracts](#)" page.

💡 To Integreat you do not need the Internet.

WLAN at home

If you want to have Internet in your own four walls, you need a router. There are various companies that can sell you a router and a contract. Internet provider contracts are often combined with a landline telephone connection and/or TV.

Public, free WLAN hotspots in the district Görlitz

Free WLAN is available at several locations (hotspots) in the district Görlitz. There you can surf the internet with your own device.

💡 **With the free app WiFi Finder you can find places with free WLAN. This app can be used in the [Google Play Store](#) or [Apple Store](#) downloaded free of charge.**

💡 As an asylum seeker in Germany, you have no legal right to Internet access (WIFI) in your accommodation. Therefore, there is usually no WIFI (WLAN) in the accommodation. If there is a telephone connection in the accommodation, it is possible for you to take out a contract for WLAN yourself. Talk to the people living in the accommodation about payment beforehand. Consider whether a contract that you can cancel at any time is better than a contract that is valid for a long time (e.g. 2 years). Before signing the contract, ask your accommodation provider whether WLAN is technically possible at all and how you can give the technician access.

Anti-discrimination and inclusion

Experiences with discrimination

Treating people unequally because of certain characteristics is prohibited in Germany. But still widespread. Whether you are looking for a flat, at work, in authorities, schools, doctors' surgeries, in your free time or at the police station. Discrimination can happen in all areas of life. Do you not come to the club because you have a disability? Did you not get the job because you wear a headscarf? Are your children treated less favourably at school because they speak little German? Do the police only check you on the long-distance coach because you have a different skin colour? Does the taxi driver refuse to give you a lift because you are transsexual? Experiences like these lead to anger, powerlessness and a feeling of

helplessness. However, you do not have to simply accept discrimination. You have the right to defend yourself against this.

All people in Germany have this right. Regardless of their origin or residence status. This is enshrined in the German Basic Law as one of the human rights. You can take legal action against the discrimination.

Was I discriminated against?

Sometimes you don't know exactly whether you have been discriminated against. You are insecure because other people don't see a problem in an action or don't find the discrimination bad. Counselling can help here. The staff at the counselling centres take your experiences seriously. They can tell you whether your experience is also legally considered discrimination and what legal options you now have. But even if your experience is not legally considered discrimination, the counselling centre can help you. Employees can help you to come to terms with what you have experienced and develop strategies for the future.

The anti-discrimination advice centres support all people who have experienced discrimination and would like advice.

For example, you can obtain advice directly from the **Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency** by calling [030185551855](tel:030185551855). The advice centre can be reached at ☎ on Mondays from 1 - 3 pm and ☎ on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am - 12 pm. The employees at speak German. Counselling is free of charge and anonymous if desired. You will have to pay the usual telephone charges for the call.

You can also ask for help from the **anti-discrimination offices in Saxony (ADB)**. You can report discrimination and request counselling on the website. The site offers information in many languages.

🌐 <https://www.adb-sachsen.de/de>

SUPPORT of the RAA Sachsen e.V.

Here, people affected by right-wing, racist and anti-Semitic violence are supported.

☎ [01743305678](tel:01743305678)

@ opferberatung.goerlitz@raa-sachsen.de

🌐 www.raa-sachsen.de/support

Alternatively, you can also contact a [migration counselling service for adults](#) or the [youth migration service](#). The staff will help you with all problems relating to life in Germany.

What do I do if I have been discriminated against by the police?

Police officers are not above the law. What police officers may and may not do is regulated in the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and police law. You can find out more on the page "[Co-operation with the police](#)".


💡 One experience that some people in Germany have, for example, is so-called racial profiling. If a person is stopped, questioned, searched or even arrested by the police simply because they appear suspicious because of their skin colour or similar characteristics, this is "racial profiling".

Living diversity: LGBTQIA*

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

This also applies to people with different sexual orientations. And it also applies to people with different gender identities. This includes lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender and intersex people. They are briefly LGBTQIA* called. They have the same rights in Germany as everyone else.

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

 Many LGBTQIA* People have fled to Germany. 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 LGBTQIA* Organisations in Germany. There you will find support and information. There you will also find social contacts.

You can find advice and offers here:

There is the Lesbian and Gay Association in Germany (LSVD), project "Queer Refugees Germany".

Are you yourself a refugee LGBTQIA*-Person and are looking for contact or counselling? The project staff will be happy to put you in touch with contact points in your area. Are you looking for support in an out-of-court legal matter? Then you can get advice here. Further information can be found on the website.

 www.queer-refugees.de

 queer-refugees@lsvd.de

Gerede - homo, bi und trans e.V. is an association in Dresden for sexual and gender diversity.

At the Gerede e.V. you will find advice on many topics and lifestyles. They receive counselling on homosexuality, bisexuality and intersexuality, for example.

 <https://gerede-dresden.de/>

There is also a counselling service in the surrounding area. It is used, for example, in Görlitz and Bautzen advise. Further information can be found here:

 <https://gerede-dresden.de/beratung/umlandberatung/>

The Gerede e.V. also offers online counselling.

 online-beratung@gerede-dresden.de

A project from Gerede e.V. is called **"borderless diversity"**. It offers a safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, inter* or queer (lgbtiq*) migrants. Relatives are also welcome. Here you can talk. Here you can exchange ideas. You can get support here.

 <https://gerede-dresden.de/beratung/queer-refugees/>

The Tierra - Eine Welt e.V. provides information on "Queer in the district of Görlitz"

Queer people also live in the rural regions of Saxony. The aim is to improve the living conditions of these people in the district of Görlitz improve their living conditions. You will find helpful information and contact points on the website. Here you will also find offers and queer events.

 <https://tierra-goerlitz.de/queer/>

🗺️ The **Cologne Refugee Council** has developed a [guide for LGBTIQ* refugees](#). The guide contains information for preparing for the hearing. The guide is available in seven languages.

People with disabilities

In Germany, almost one in ten people has a severe disability. In the district of Görlitz, 14 per cent of people live with severe disabilities (as of 2021). Many people have health impairments. For example, they are chronically ill. There are people who cannot see. They are blind. There are people who cannot hear. They are deaf. Some people's bodies are smaller than others. Some people can't walk by themselves. Some people find it difficult to do a certain job. But all people should be able to participate in society. This is why there are inclusion measures. For example, people with severe disabilities get help with their jobs. Children can receive special support even before they start kindergarten. This is called early intervention.

Early intervention

Early intervention is for children with a disability. And early intervention is for children who could develop a disability. Early intervention covers all areas of development. For example, it helps children who develop more slowly than other children in certain areas. Examples of early intervention include Speech support (speech therapy), vision school or occupational therapy. Early intervention is available for children from birth to school age. Early support is important. It helps to avoid or minimise disabilities.

Your **paediatrician** can help you find early intervention.

🗺️ You can also ask the [paediatric counselling](#) service of the public health department.

💡 There are **contact points for early intervention** in the district in the following cities Zittau, Görlitz, Weißwasser, Löbau.

🗺️ You can search for early intervention centres in your area [here](#).

Diakonie Sachsen advises parents on the subject of early intervention.

@dorothee.wiedmann@diakonie-sachsen.de

☎️ +49 (0) 3518315139

🗺️ Further information can be found on the [Diakonie Sachsen website](#).

Degree of disability and compensation for disadvantages

The compensation for disadvantages a person has depends on the type of disability. It also depends on the degree of disability (Grad der Behinderung = GdB). The aim is to enable and promote the participation of people with disabilities. This participation should be equal. And participation should be self-determined.

Applications for the determination of disability status can be found on the website of the **district administration office Görlitz, Sachgebiet Schwerbehindertenrecht/ Landesblindengesetz**. You can also apply for an ID card for severe disabilities here.

🗺️ <https://www.kreis-goerlitz.de/Landratsamt/Standorte.htm/Aemter/SG-Schwerbehindertenrecht-Landesblindengesetz>

Integration assistance

People with disabilities often need support. Integration assistance services in particular are designed to provide this support. The aim is to enable self-determined participation in life.

The **district's integration assistance department of the district Görlitz:**

📍 All information about the department can be found [here](#).

There is the "**Integration Assistance**" counselling service of **Diakonie Sachsen**. Here, people with disabilities and their relatives receive legal and social counselling.

✉️ @christian.stoebe@diakonie-sachsen.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 3518315159](tel:+4903518315159)

📄 Further information can be found on the [Diakonie Sachsen website](#).

Problems with inclusion

Inclusion means that everyone can participate in our society. Inclusion also means that we are allowed to be different. There are still many problems with the integration of people with disabilities. For example, the stairs are off-limits for wheelchairs. And small print is a problem for visually impaired people.

💡 **Do you see someone who needs help? Then ask if you can help.**

Further counselling services and information

There is a non-profit organisation for emergency aid and development cooperation. It is called **Handicap International / Humanity & Inclusion (HI)**. The organisation is active in around 60 countries. **Handicap International e.V.** is the German association of this international organisation. The organisation has the [Crossroads](#) division. Projects are carried out here to improve the participation of refugees with disabilities. 🧑🏿 **Refugees with disabilities and their relatives** can find lots of information on the website.

📄 There are [brochures in nine languages](#). For example, there is the brochure "The support system for people with disabilities".

📞 [Counselling](#) is also available. Counselling is free of charge and can be obtained by telephone. Counselling is provided on questions relating to the German support system for people with disabilities. In addition, refugees with disabilities and their relatives receive support in getting in touch with local and suitable support services.

The **commissioner for the interests of people with disabilities** works in the district of Görlitz. She advises people with disabilities. She also advises their relatives.

📍 Further information, such as contact details, can be found [here](#).

The district of Görlitz has an [advisory board for the interests of people with disabilities](#). It is committed to equal rights and the participation of people with disabilities. You can reach the Disability Advisory Council via the following e-mail address:

✉️ @behindertenbeirat@kreis-gr.de

There is an advisory board **for people with disabilities** in the town of Görlitz. The advisory board offers consultation hours for people with disabilities.

📍 [Family office Görlitz \(Familienbüro Görlitz\)](#)

📅 Friday, 11.00 -13.00 (without appointment)

💡 Some municipalities have an advisory board for people with disabilities. Enquire in your

[municipality.](#)

The supplementary independent participation counselling service (EUTB®) supports and advises all people with a disability. People who are chronically ill also receive counselling. Friends and family of people with disabilities also receive support and counselling. Advice is given on topics such as work, school, kindergarten, relocation and disability passes. There are contact points for participation counselling in Görlitz, Löbau, Zittau, Niesky, Weißwasser, Ebersbach-Neugersdorf.

📍 Further information can be found on the [EUTB website](#).

The **social organisation VdK - district association Görlitz** provides advice on the subject of disability law.

📍 <https://www.vdk.de/kv-goerlitz/>

There is the **Integration Specialist Service (IFD) Saxony**. The IFD supports people with a disability on the subject of work. The main focus is on the topic of participation in working life. You can find detailed information in the [IFD flyer](#).

☎ [035814269910](tel:035814269910)

@ info.bautzen@ifd.3in.de

📍 <http://www.ifd.malteser-bautzen.de/>

There is a **publication entitled "Living without barriers. Measures for adapting living space in the district of Görlitz"**. It provides information on the options for adapting your own living space in the event of reduced mobility.

📍 [You can read the publication here](#).

The **family guide from Aktion Mensch** contains lots of information on the topic of disability. You can find out what the degree of disability is. You can also read about who determines the degree of disability. You will learn what you can do if you do not agree with your degree of disability.

📍 [You can find the guide in plain language here](#).

📍 [Here you can find information about migration and disability in the guide](#).

Religious freedom

Freedom of religion applies in Germany. This is guaranteed by the Basic Law. You can live out your faith as you see fit. One rule applies: In doing so, they must not violate the Basic Law. You must not be discriminated against because 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 faiths are allowed to marry each other.
- Marriage only counts as a legally binding 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.

Religious practice

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 church services together. It makes it easier to communicate with your fellow human beings. There are various groups or meetings for this purpose. Find out more on the Community website. You can also call or introduce yourself in person.

💡 Find out in your community or [parish](#) which organisations and faiths are represented.

Mobility

Public transport and bicycle

You can reach many places around your home by public transport. You can also go by bike. Exercise is healthy. The bike is inexpensive. The bike is also environmentally friendly.

Public transport

To get to your destination in the district Görlitz you can use public transport to get to your destination. These are bus, tram (only in the city Görlitz), regional railway (RB, RE) and the historic narrow-gauge railway.

💡 You have to buy a ticket for the tram and narrow-gauge railway before boarding.

💡 You can only buy a ticket from the driver/service staff on buses and trains.

💡 At many railway stations in the district Görlitz there are no ticket machines. You buy the ticket from the service staff on the train.

💡 Some tickets must be additionally validated after purchase. Also pay attention to the time and area restrictions on your ticket.

💡 Travelling without a ticket is punished! You must have a valid ticket for every journey. Otherwise you will pay a fine.

In the district Görlitz the network for local public transport (ÖPNV):
ZVON (Zweckverband Verkehrsverbund Oberlausitz-Niederschlesien)

📍 [Here](#) you can quickly find the right means of transport, tickets, prices and timetables. You can also use the travel information service of the

📍 [Deutsche Bahn](#).

Offices for advice, information, tickets and ABO service in the district Görlitz can be found [here](#).

💡 Does your child have to use the bus or train to get to school? Then these costs can be partially paid by the [school transport](#).

Bicycle

You will be living in the district Görlitz live? Then it's worth buying a bike. It's cheaper than travelling by public transport.

💡 Important traffic rules for cyclists (selection):

- Always drive on the right-hand side of the carriageway.
- Do not drive side by side, but one behind the 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).
- Children up to the age of 11 may use the footpaths by bicycle.
- Using a mobile phone on a bicycle is prohibited.

💡 Acquisition and repairs: Your bike must be equipped as follows to ensure that it is roadworthy. Otherwise you will have to pay a fine if you are stopped by the police.

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

Here you can find cheap used bikes:

Velo Bicycle workshop

📍 [Am Schützenhaus 1, 02826 Görlitz](#)

☎ [035814238403](tel:035814238403)

@ velo@goewerk.de

Driving licence and driving a car

A driving licence can be very useful. Especially if you live in a village or a small, remote town. There are often no public transport connections here. Then a driving licence is helpful. And buying a car is often necessary. Would you like to get a German driving licence? Or do you already have a driving licence from your home country? And would you now like to rewrite it? Conversion means that the driving licence is also valid in Germany. We provide you with this information on this page.

Is my driving licence valid in Germany?

Would you like to drive in Germany yourself? Then you need a driving licence from Germany or another EU country. Driving licences from non-EU countries are only valid for 6 months in Germany. You may only drive in Germany with a driving licence from your home country for the first 6 months. The 6 months begin with your first police registration in Germany. You must always have your driving licence with you when you drive. You must also have a translation of your driving licence into German with you. The international driving licence is also not valid indefinitely. It also loses its validity after 6 months. It must then be exchanged for a German driving licence.

You still want to drive yourself after 6 months? Then have your driving licence transferred.

💡 If you are only visiting Germany, you may drive with your foreign or international driving licence. You must always have your driving licence with you when you drive.

💡 During your asylum procedure, all your documents remain with the BAMF. You will normally only get them back once your asylum procedure has been completed. As long as your driving licence is with the BAMF, you are not allowed to drive yourself.

How do I convert my driving licence?

Contact your local driving licence authority or driving licence office. It can sometimes take a while before you receive an answer. The authority sometimes receives a lot of applications at once. Contact the competent authority before your 6-month driving licence expires. You must go to the driving licence office in person. You will have to present various documents there:

- Identity card or passport
- Confirmation of registration (police registration)
- biometric passport photo
- Certificate of an eye test (from an optician or ophthalmologist)
- Confirmation of participation in a first aid course. You can find a course near you, for example, at [Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund \(ASB\)](#), [German Red Cross \(DRK\)](#) or at the [Johannitern](#).
- Your original foreign driving licence (an international driving licence is not sufficient). As a rule, you must also submit a certified German translation.
- A declaration that your foreign driving licence is still valid.

The driving licence office will then decide whether your driving licence can be converted without a test. Otherwise, you must first take the theory and practical test. This depends on the country in which you obtained your driving licence.

💡 It is a good idea to attend a driving school before the test. Germany has a lot of traffic rules and signs. Unlike those who are taking their first driving licence, however, you do not have to take any driving lessons.

The driving licence authority can answer any questions you may have about your driving licence:

Driving licence authority

☎ [035816635300](tel:035816635300)

@ fahrerlaubnisbehoerde@kreis-gr.de

Further information, such as locations and opening hours, can be found at

🌐 <https://www.kreis-goerlitz.de/englisch.htm/03-Landratsamt/Aemter/SG-Fahrerlaubnisbehoerde.html?>

How can I get a German driving licence?

To obtain a driving licence for the first time, proceed as follows:

- Register with a driving school. In large cities, there are driving schools with driving instructors who speak Arabic and Persian, for example. You can find driving schools near you on drivolino.de or fahrschulen.de to find one.

- Take part in a first aid course. You can find a course near you, for example, at the [Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund \(ASB\)](#) [german Red Cross \(DRK\)](#) or at the [Johannitern](#).
- Have an eye test at an optician or an ophthalmologist. The eye test costs approx. 7 euros. Some opticians also offer the eye test free of charge.
- Have a biometric passport photo taken.

💡 You must pay for the driving licence yourself. You may drive a car alone from the age of 18. Young people can get their driving licence at the age of 17. However, they are only allowed to drive with an adult. This is called "accompanied driving".

💡 If you buy your own car to drive, you will need [motor insurance](#).

Can my driving licence be revoked?

If you disregard important traffic rules, you could lose your driving licence. A distinction is made here between a driving ban and the withdrawal of a driving licence.

- If you are banned from driving, you must surrender your driving licence to the fines office for a few months. You are not allowed to drive yourself during this time. You can pick up your driving licence again after the deadline has expired.
- If your driving licence is revoked, your driving licence loses its validity. This means that you are no longer allowed to drive yourself and are also not allowed to obtain a new driving licence for a certain period of time (suspension period).

Have you endangered road traffic? Have you been driving drunk? Have you collected 8 penalty points? These are reasons to revoke your driving licence.

You receive penalty points for various rule offences, for example if you drive too fast. The penalty points are also known colloquially as "points in Flensburg" are colloquially called.

💡 Have you just obtained your new car driving licence? You will then be on probation for two years. Did you break the traffic rules during your probationary period? Then you must attend an advanced training seminar during your probationary period. In certain cases also psychological counselling. In addition, your probationary period will be extended by a further two years. You are not taking part in the advanced seminar? Then your driving licence will be taken away. Examples of a traffic offence are: jaywalking, driving at night without lights, driving drunk. Parking illegally is not a traffic offence. In this case, you only have to pay the fine.

Shopping and dining

In Germany, shops are generally open from Monday to Saturday. They are generally closed on Sundays and public holidays. The opening hours of the shops may vary. You can find out about them on the Internet or at the entrance to the respective shops.

💡 Restaurants, cafés and leisure facilities (e.g. swimming pools, museums, cinemas) are often also open on Sundays and public holidays.

You can shop here:

- **Discounters**

You can buy cheaper food in discount stores. The range of goods is relatively limited and simply presented. There are discount stores in almost every town.

- **Supermarket**

In supermarkets, you can mainly buy slightly more expensive food. You will also find many branded products here. The presentation of the goods is more important than in the discounters.

- **Weekly market**

At the weekly markets, you can mainly buy regional foods (e.g. fruit, vegetables, eggs, bread). The weekly markets only take place on certain days of the week and usually in the mornings. However, there is not a weekly market in every town.

- **Speciality shop**

Speciality shops are shops where you can buy goods in a particular category. These are, for example, bakeries, butchers, sports shops and shoe shops.

- **Retail shop with foreign products**

Especially in larger cities, there are shops where you can buy foreign products. There are, for example, Turkish, Russian or Asian shops.

- **Drugstore**

Drugstores are specialised shops with a wide range of products. You can mainly buy hygiene products (e.g. shampoo) or cleaning products (e.g. washing powder, washing-up liquid) here.

💡 Products almost always have fixed prices. Hagglng is not common in Germany.

💡 New goods often come with a guarantee. The guarantee allows you to demand a new appliance or a repair from the manufacturer if it breaks or is faulty.

💡 Goods purchased online or in larger shops and department stores can usually be exchanged or returned. There are time limits (14 days, 2 years, ...) that you must observe.

💡 Cheap food is usually at the bottom of the shelf.

💡 Do you want to buy food for little money? Look out for special offers. Take a look at the special offer leaflets in your letterbox.

💡 There's an app. It is called ["Too Good To Go"](#). Various shops and restaurants in Görlitz and in other cities use this platform to offer surplus food at favourable prices. You can use the app to buy food cheaply. People in Görlitz [can find more tips for low-cost shopping here](#).

💡 Do you want to buy furniture, crockery and other goods for little money? Take a look at the ["Finding accommodation and buying furniture"](#) page. There you will find contact points in the district of Görlitz.

Food banks

The food banks rescue food that can no longer be sold and pass it on to people in poverty. This means that people with little money (e.g. low pensions, benefits from the immigration authorities or the job centre) receive food and hygiene products from the food banks for a small contribution towards costs. To be able to go to the food banks, you need a food bank customer card that shows that you are in need. You can go to the Tafel office with your identity card, registration certificate and a pension certificate or a notice from the job centre or social welfare office and have the card issued.



💡 [You can find your nearest food bank on the Tafel Deutschland website.](#)

Görlitzer Tafel e.V.

📍 [Here](#) you will find opening hours and contact details.

📍 [Sculptetusstraße 14-16, 02828 Görlitz](#)

Tafel Oberlausitz e.V.

📍 [Here](#) you will find opening hours and contact details.

📍 [Tafel Zittau, Görlitzer Straße 24](#)

📍 [Tafel Niesky, Stannewischer Straße 1, Building 6](#)

📍 [Tafel Löbau, Weißenberger Straße 13](#)

📍 [Tafel Ebersbach-Neugersdorf, Hofeweg 47](#)

How do I register with the food bank?

Contact the local food bank or drop by and ask. Each food bank organises the registration process differently. As a rule, you provide proof of your need with a notification, e.g. job centre, pension, housing benefit or BAföG notification, and then receive a Tafel ID card. This allows you to use your food bank's food distribution centre on the agreed dates.

Cemeteries and burial

Funerals/burials/burials

There are many options for burial in Germany.

The deceased can be buried in the following ways:

- The deceased person can be buried in a coffin. That means burial in the ground.
- There is also the option of burial in an urn. That means cremation.
- The deceased person can also be buried in water. That means burial at sea.

- There is also a tree burial. The deceased person is buried in the root area of a tree.

If you have any questions about the cemetery, you must contact the cemetery operator. Cemetery owners are the church or the [municipality](#).

Help and support with funerals

In the district Görlitz there are many funeral parlours. They can help and support grieving relatives. For example, they obtain the necessary authorisations for burial or repatriation abroad. They organise funerals and advise on the choice of burial.

You can search for funeral homes in your area on the website of the German Cemetery Association.

 <https://www.deutschefriedhofsgesellschaft.de/best...>

💡 A corpse passport is required for **repatriations**. The corpse passport can be issued by the public health department. Ask your funeral parlour. It will submit all necessary applications to the relevant authorities on your behalf.