

Waste separation and deposits (Pfand)

Waste separation means that different types of waste are collected and disposed of separately. In Germany, waste separation starts with the consumers themselves. That means every household must sort its own waste and dispose of it in different bins and containers. A large amount of Germany's waste is recycled and composted, which conserves resources and protects the environment. As a general rule, avoiding waste is always the easiest way to do something about the growing mountains of waste.

If you put something in the wrong bin, the staff and sorting plants at recycling centres have to sort through the waste again. If we all separate waste properly, we can avoid this additional effort, reduce costs and do something for the environment.

What goes in which bin?

The waste bins in Germany have different colours. The colours tell you which waste goes in which bin. You can find out when which waste is collected in the so-called [waste calendar](#), which you will find in your letterbox every year or can pick up at the town hall.

💡 Only certain waste may be thrown into each bin!

Black bin: Residual waste, e.g. bones, meat scraps, nappies, sweepings, coated paper

Green bin: Paper and cardboard, newspapers

Brown bin: Organic waste, e.g. fruit and vegetable waste, coffee and tea filters, leaves, flowers, grass

Yellow bag: Plastic packaging and cans (yellow bags are available at the supermarket or at the town hall in Hochstadt)

Glass bottles belong in the glass container. They are often found in supermarket car parks and on the side of the road.

Batteries, corks, CDs, energy-saving light bulbs, etc. are collected separately. E.g. in the town hall, in the libraries or in many supermarkets.

You can bring **green waste, construction waste, metal, used glass**, etc. to the waste collection point.

📍 **Dörnigheim:** [Composting plant Otto-Hahn-Straße 7](#)

📍 **Bischofsheim:** [Small waste site in the extended Jahnstraße](#) or small waste site in the [extended Hochstraße](#) (only open on Saturdays)

📍 **Hochstadt:** [Asphalted field path behind the fairground](#)

📍 **Wachenbuchen:** [in the Simmicht](#)

🕒 Opening hours: Wednesday 13.00 - 17.00, Friday 14.00 - 17.00, Saturday 9.00 - 15.00


Paints, varnish, solvents, used oil, etc. are hazardous waste and are collected with the mobile hazardous waste unit.

📍 You can find the dates for the hazardous waste mobile [here](#).

Bulky waste

Anything too big for the bin or container will be collected. This costs nothing extra in Maintal. Make an appointment at:

Spahn and Son

 [06181702270](tel:06181702270)

Do I have to separate the rubbish?

Yes, waste separation is compulsory in Germany. Everyone must separate their waste correctly and put it in the right bins. If you don't follow the waste separation rules, you may be given a warning by your landlord or landlady. If you don't change your behaviour, you may even lose your home. And your landlord or landlady will charge you for the costs resulting from incorrect waste separation. If you have your own home, incorrect waste separation will increase your bill for waste disposal. Incorrect waste separation is also considered an offence. If you are caught, you will have to pay a fine. If you repeatedly don't separate waste, or separate it incorrectly, this fine may be several hundred or thousand euros.


What do I need to know about "pledge"?


In Germany, there is something called "Pfandpflicht" for certain drinks packaging. When you buy plastic bottles, glass bottles or drinks cans in a supermarket, you pay a few extra cents. If you take them back to a collection point for empty bottles and cans in a supermarket (usually a machine), you can get this money back. This is called "Pfand". There are two different types of these specific bottles:

Disposable bottles (which are recycled) have a square symbol with a can and a bottle, and an arrow wrapped around them. This is the Deutsche Pfand-System GmbH company logo. You will get 25 cents back for each bottle or can with this symbol.

Reusable bottles (which are washed and refilled) will either have no symbol at all, a "blue angel" or the word "Mehrweg(-Flasche)", "Leihflasche" or "Pfandflasche". You will get 15 cents back for each reusable bottle. You will get 8 cents back for each beer bottle.

 Beverage cartons are deposit-free.

 If you don't have the time to take your bottles back, or you don't want to, then you can also put them next to a bin on the pavement in a clearly visible place. There are many people in Germany who collect these bottles to earn a bit of money for themselves.

 All information about waste, collection times, costs and exact separation of waste can be found [here](#) (German) or call:

City of Maintal - Environmental Service

 [Klosterhofstraße 4 - 6, 63477 Maintal](#)

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