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Living

General information

Do you have a permanent residence permit? Do you receive citizen's allowance? Then you can move into your own flat.

As in many cities, there are rather few available flats in Rostock that have a favourable rent. As a rule, you will have to look for a flat on your own. To do this, it is helpful to register with the various housing associations. Here you can specify exactly what kind of flat you need and how much it may cost. If there is no suitable flat available, you will be placed on a waiting list.

💡 Register with several housing associations. This will increase your chances of finding a suitable flat.

Housing companies in Rostock

In principle, you must look for a flat yourself if you are eligible. There are many housing associations in Rostock. If you are looking for a flat, it is a good idea to check here. Many housing associations also have waiting lists on which you can register.

Housing associations in Rostock

Wiro- Wohnen in Rostock

- 📍 [Wiro - KundenCenter Stadtmitte](#)
- 📍 [Wiro - Mieterbüro Warnemünde](#)
- 📍 [Wiro - KundenCenter Evershagen](#)
- 📍 [Wiro - KundenCenter Lütten Klein](#)
- 📍 [Wiro - KundenCenter Reutershagen](#)
- 📍 [Wiro - KundenCenter Toitenwinkel/Dierkow](#)

Neue Rostocker Wohnungsgenossenschaft

- 📍 [Neue Rostocker Wohnungsgenossenschaft](#)

BG Neptun

- 📍 [BG Neptun](#)

Wohnungsgenossenschaft Rostock Süd

📍 [WG Süd](#)

Wohnungsgenossenschaft Marienehe e.G.

📍 [Wohnungsgenossenschaft Marienehe e.G.](#)

WG Union

📍 [WG Union - Geschäftsstelle](#)

📍 [WG Union - Kundencenter Dierkow](#)

📍 [WG Union - Kundencenter Lütten Klein](#)

WG Warnow eG

📍 [WG Warnow eG](#)

Wohnungsgenossenschaft Schifffahrt-Hafen eG

📍 [Wohnungsgenossenschaft Schifffahrt-Hafen Rostock eG](#)

Rent and rental agreement

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.

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 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.

Only you have a key to your flat. Take good care of your key. Have you lost the key? Then a locksmith will have to come. 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.

Do you want to give notice?

Germany protects tenants and landlords. You can't simply give notice overnight. You must give your landlord or landlady at least three months' notice. Always give notice of cancellation in writing. Have your cancellation confirmed.

House rules

In cities, several people often live in one house. Rules are needed so that they can live well together. These rules are laid down in the house rules (Hausordnung). Quiet hours are particularly important in Germany. Have a look at your house rules to see what time of day it has to be quiet. This is often the whole of Sunday. On other days, this is often from 10 pm. Make sure you are not too loud. Are people in the neighbourhood too loud? Then speak to them. Ask them to turn down the music or television.

Housing benefit

You earn little money. Everyone in your household earns little money. Then you can get a subsidised flat. You will need a certificate of eligibility for subsidised housing (WBS) (Wohnberechtigungsschein (WBS)). Under certain conditions, you are also entitled to housing benefit. You and your family receive money from the state. In this case, you do not usually need to apply for housing benefit.

You must apply for a certificate of eligibility for housing in the federal state or city (municipal administration, housing office) in which you are looking for social housing.

You have a notice of recognition from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) (Bundesamts für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)). Then you can generally obtain a WBS. Even if you have not yet been issued a residence permit.

Office for Social Affairs and Participation

Housing benefit office

 [Rigaer Str. 10, 18107](#)

 [Wohngeldstelle](#)

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 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?

Waste bins in Germany have different colours. The colours show you which waste is allowed 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!

 [Abfallkalender Rostock](#)

 [Müll ABC Rostocker Stadtentsorgung](#)

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 adhere to the rules on waste separation, your landlord or landlady can give you a warning. If you do not change your behaviour, you may even lose your flat. Your landlord or landlady 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 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.

 [Was gehört in welche Tonne](#)

What do I need to know about "deposits"?

In Germany, there is a so-called "deposit obligation" ("Pfandpflicht") for certain drinks packaging. 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 deposit bottles yourself, you can also leave 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. You use these to operate various appliances. 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 appliances draw power in standby mode even though they are actually switched off. The best antidote is a switchable power strip. With just one click, several appliances can be disconnected from the power supply.

In many houses, the heating works with gas. You often pay your supplier monthly in advance. Then the bill is recalculated once a year. Sometimes you have to pay extra. Sometimes you get money back. If electricity and gas are expensive, it's worth saving money every month. Then you will have enough money if you have to pay extra.

💡 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](#).

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

💡 Tips for saving water: Install an energy-saving shower head. Take a shower instead of a bath. Repair dripping taps. Install a flush-stop button in the toilet.

You can find more tips and useful information at the [consumer advice centre](#).

Buying new appliances

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 and heaters. Energy efficiency classes and information on product features such as electricity and water consumption or volume make it easy to compare different appliances. Energy-efficient appliances can save several hundred euros per 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 appliances. The app is available free of charge in German and English in [Google Play](#) and the [Apple App Store](#).

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. 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](#).

Furniture and furnishings

If you receive benefits, you have the option of receiving money to furnish your home. Please check your entitlement with the relevant authorities.

If you don't have much money, you can also buy furniture and furnishings in social department stores. The prices here are not so high. There are several social department stores and shops in Rostock.

📍 [Charisma e.V. Sozialkaufhaus „Schmarler Lichtblick“](#)

📍 [Umsonstladen „Kostenlos“ e.V.](#)

📍 [Umsonstladen "Kostenlos" e.V.](#)

📍 [Sozialkaufhaus Diakonie Rostocker Stadtmission](#)