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Mobile Phone & Internet in Germany — SIM Card and Contract

Prepaid vs. contract, cheap mobile providers and internet connection for your apartment.

Deutsche Begriffe: Mobilfunk | Prepaid | Vertrag | SIM-Karte | Handyvertrag | WLAN

Mobile Phone — Prepaid or Contract?

Prepaid (no contract binding)

- **No SCHUFA check** — ideal for newcomers
- Buy SIM card in supermarkets, drugstores or online
- Top up balance, no monthly commitment
- Providers: **Aldi Talk, Lidl Connect, Congstar Prepaid, Lebara, Lycamobile**
- Costs: from approx. **€7-10/month** (3-5 GB data + unlimited calls)

Contract (24-month term)

- Better conditions, latest smartphone possible
- **SCHUFA check** and German bank account required
- Providers: **Telekom, Vodafone, O2, 1&1**
- Costs: from approx. **€15-30/month** (10-30 GB data + unlimited calls)

Activate SIM Card

Since 2017, every SIM card in Germany must be activated via **identity verification:**

- Video-Ident (smartphone camera + ID document)
- In a shop with your ID

Internet for Your Apartment (WLAN)

DSL / Cable / Fiber Optic

Type	Speed	Cost/Month
DSL	50-250 Mbit/s	€25-40
Cable	100-1000 Mbit/s	€30-50
Fiber Optic	300-1000 Mbit/s	€35-60

- Minimum contract term: usually **24 months**
- Providers: Telekom, Vodafone, O2, 1&1
- **Tip:** Ask your previous tenant or landlord which connection is available

Without Contract

- **Congstar Homespot, O2 Homespot** — Internet via mobile network, no technician appointment
- Ideal as a temporary solution

Tips for Foreigners

- Start with **Prepaid** — no risk, immediately usable
- **Lebara** and **Lycamobile** offer cheap international rates (calls to your home country)
- Sign internet contract only after finding permanent housing