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Saving on Heating Costs — Thermostat, Ventilation, Utility Bill Settlement

Reduce heating costs through proper heating and ventilation. Understand your utility bill settlement and avoid overpayments.

Deutsche Begriffe: Heizkosten | Thermostat | Nebenkostenabrechnung | Heizkostenverordnung | Stoßlüften

Heating Costs — a Major Expense

In Germany, heating costs often account for **30–50% of utility costs**. The average household pays **€800–1,500/year** for heating. With simple tricks, you can save **10–30%**.

Using the Thermostat Correctly

The numbers on the Thermostat mean:

Level	Temperature
* (snowflake)	approx. 6 °C (frost protection)
1	approx. 12 °C
2	approx. 16 °C
3	approx. 20 °C
4	approx. 24 °C
5	approx. 28 °C

Recommendation:

• Living room: **Level 3** (20 °C)

• Bedroom: **Level 2** (16–18 °C)

• Kitchen: **Level 2–3** (18–20 °C)

• Bathroom: **Level 3–4** (22–24 °C)

Important: Level 5 does not heat **faster**, only to a higher temperature. Turning the dial from 3 to 5 won't make the room warm faster!

Proper Ventilation — Stoßlüften

Incorrect ventilation is the most common cause of **high heating costs and mold**:

• **Correct:** 3–4 times daily **short bursts** (open window fully for 5–10 minutes)

• **Wrong:** Window constantly tilted open — the room cools down and heating fights against the open window

• When ventilating, **turn off the heating** (Thermostat to *)

• Turn it back on immediately after ventilation

Check Your Utility Bill Settlement

Your annual **utility bill settlement** (operating cost statement) contains your heating costs. Check:

• **Billing period** — must be 12 months

• **Distribution key** — consumption (50–70%) + floor area (30–50%)

• **Deadline:** Landlord must provide the statement within **12 months** after the billing period ends

• **Objection period:** You have **12 months** to raise objections

Money-Saving Tips

• **Close doors** — separate unheated rooms from the rest of your apartment

• **Keep radiators clear** — no furniture or curtains in front of heaters

• **Bleed your radiators** — gurgling radiators heat inefficiently

• **Lower temperature at night** — 2–3 degrees less saves up to 10%

• **Close shutters/curtains** — in the evening for extra insulation

• **Programmable Thermostats** — from approx. €15 in hardware stores, reduce costs by 10–15%