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## Mail and Parcels in Germany — Deutsche Post, DHL & Co.

Everything about letter delivery, parcel shipping, Packstations, and mail forwarding in Germany.

**Deutsche Begriffe:** Deutsche Post | DHL | Hermes | Packstation | Nachsendeauftrag | Einschreiben | Briefkasten

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### The German postal system

**Deutsche Post** is responsible for letters, **DHL** (a subsidiary of Deutsche Post) for parcels. Additionally, there are private parcel services such as **Hermes**, **DPD**, **GLS**, and **UPS**.

#### Letter delivery

Shipment	Price	Delivery time
Standard letter (up to 20 g)	0.95 €	1-2 business days
Compact letter (up to 50 g)	1.10 €	1-2 business days
Large letter (up to 500 g)	1.80 €	1-2 business days
Einschreiben (Standard)	+ 2.95 €	with proof

**Important:** Government letters almost always arrive by mail. Check **your mailbox daily** — especially after registering with the local authorities, as your tax ID and other important documents arrive by post.

#### Receiving and sending parcels

Parcels can be dropped off and picked up at **post offices**, **parcel shops** (kiosks, gas stations), or at **Packstations**.

#### Packstation — 24/7 parcel pickup

DHL operates over **12,000 Packstations** throughout Germany. Benefits:

- **Free** — registration via DHL app or Post & DHL App
- **Open 24 hours** — ideal for working professionals
- **Pickup via app** — scan QR code, compartment opens
- **Send parcels** — simply insert prepaid parcels

**Tip:** If you provide your Packstation address when ordering, you'll avoid missed delivery attempts.

Nachsendeauftrag — mail forwarding

If you're moving, you should set up a **Nachsendeauftrag** (mail forwarding):

- **Online:** nachsendeauftrag.de or in the Post & DHL App
- **Cost:** approximately **29.90 € for 12 months** (private individuals)
- **Duration:** mail is forwarded to your new address for up to **24 months**
- **Important:** applies only to Deutsche Post/DHL — not to Hermes, DPD, etc.

Einschreiben — proof for important letters

For important documents (termination letters, deadlines, appeals), use an

**Einschreiben:**

- **Einschreiben Standard** (2.95 €) — recipient signs
- **Einschreiben Einwurf** (2.65 €) — delivery person documents the drop-off
- **Einschreiben Rückschein** (5.15 €) — you receive a signed confirmation back

Practical tips

- **Label your mailbox** — your name must be on the mailbox, otherwise mail won't be delivered
- **Delivery notification** — if a parcel cannot be delivered, a notification card will be in your mailbox. The parcel waits 7 business days at the branch.
- **Customs for parcels from abroad** — for shipments from outside the EU, customs duties and import sales tax apply from 150 € onwards

--- As of: March 2026. All information without warranty.