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Moving in Germany — The Complete Checklist

Everything you need to know about moving: lease termination, Ummeldung, Nachsendeauftrag, handover protocol and more. Status: March 2026.

Deutsche Begriffe: Umzug | Nachsendeauftrag | Ummeldung | Mietkaution | Übergabeprotokoll

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Moving in Germany — The Complete Checklist

> Status: March 2026. All information without warranty.

3 Months Before

- ☐ **Terminate rental agreement** (notice period: typically 3 months to end of month)
- ☐ Find new apartment and sign rental contract
- ☐ **Compare and book moving companies** (or rent a van)
- ☐ **Request leave of absence** from employer (some collective agreements: 1–2 days)
- ☐ Register children in new school/daycare

1 Month Before

- ☐ **Set up Nachsendeauftrag** at the post office (online: €28.90 for 6 months)
- ☐ Prepare address changes: bank, insurance, employer, GEZ, tax office
- ☐ Register electricity/gas at new location (or switch provider)
- ☐ Terminate or transfer internet/phone (check cancellation rights!)
- ☐ Declutter and sort out belongings

On Moving Day

- ☐ **Create Übergabeprotokoll** with old landlord (document condition, take photos!)
- ☐ Return all keys
- ☐ Read meter readings (electricity, gas, water) and note them
- ☐ **Create Übergabeprotokoll** for new apartment

After Moving (Within 14 Days!)

- ☐ **Ummeldung at local registration office** — mandatory within 14 days!
- Bring: ID + housing confirmation from new landlord
- ☐ Keep new registration certificate
- ☐ Update address with all institutions: bank, employer, health insurance, tax office
- ☐ Re-register vehicle (if moving to different registration district)
- ☐ **Deposit** from old apartment: return within max. 6 months (landlord may wait for any deductions)

Moving Costs

Item	Cost (approx.)
Moving company (2-room, local)	€500–1,200
Van rental (1 day)	€50–120
Nachsendeauftrag	€28.90 (6 months)
Ummeldung	free
Renovation of old apartment	€200–800

Tips

- **Parking ban** for moving van — request from municipal office (approx. €50–100)
- **Moving costs** are tax-deductible (job-related move: flat rate €886)
- Photos of condition of both apartments — protects against deposit disputes

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