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Moving Company (Umzugsfirma) — Costs, Tax Allowance and Tips

Moving costs €600-2,000 locally, no-parking zone €50-250, tax allowance €886 and money-saving tips.

Deutsche Begriffe: Umzugsfirma | Halteverbotszone | Umzugspauschale | Spedition | Umzugskosten | Beiladung

How Much Does a Move with a Moving Company Cost?

Costs depend on apartment size, distance, and scope of services. Here's an overview for 2026:

Costs by Apartment Size (local move, same city)

Apartment	Costs (approx.)	
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1-bedroom (up to 30 m ²)	€400-800	
2-bedroom (up to 60 m ²)	€600-1,200	
3-bedroom (up to 80 m ²)	€900-1,600	
4-bedroom (up to 100 m ²)	€1,200-2,000	

Long-Distance Move (over 500 km)

For a move across Germany, expect **1.5 to 2.5 times** the local costs. Example: 3-bedroom apartment Hamburg → Munich: approx. **€1,800-3,500**.

What's Included in the Price?

Standard services:

- Transportation in moving truck
- Assembly and disassembly of furniture (basic furniture)
- Carrying/hauling (including stairs)
- Basic transport insurance

Additional costs:

- **Packing service:** +€200-500 (packing boxes)
- **Moving boxes (Umzugskartons):** €1-3 per box (20-40 boxes for 2-bedroom)
- **Piano/safe:** +€150-400 (specialist transport)
- **External lift/crane:** +€200-600 (narrow stairwells)

Applying for a No-Parking Zone (Halteverbotszone)

A Halteverbotszone reserves parking spaces directly in front of your apartment for the moving truck. Without it, loading and unloading can be stressful and expensive.

Costs

Item	Cost
Official permit	€50-120 (varies by city)
Sign installation	€80-130 (service provider)
Total	€50-250

How It Works

- 1. Apply 3-4 weeks beforehand** (Traffic Authority or online)
- 2.** Signs are installed **3 business days** before the move
- 3.** Illegally parked cars are towed away at no cost
- 4. Tip:** Many moving companies handle the application as a service

Tax Allowance for Moving Costs

Job-Related Move

If you're moving for job-related reasons (new job, relocation, reducing commute by at least 1 hour), you can deduct moving costs for tax purposes.

Moving cost tax allowance (Umzugspauschale) 2026:

- **€886** for the person moving
- **€590** for each additional household member (spouse, children)
- Example: Family with 2 children: $886 + 590 + 590 + 590 = \mathbf{€2,656}$

The allowance applies **without receipts**. Higher costs can be claimed with receipts as business expenses.

Private Move

For a private move, you can claim **household services** (moving company invoice) up to **20% of max. €20,000 = €4,000** tax refund.

Finding and Hiring a Moving Company

Comparing Quotes

- **Get at least 3 quotes**
- **On-site inspection** is better than phone estimates
- **Agree on fixed price** — not hourly rate
- **Portals:** umzugsauktion.de, umzug.de, movinga.de

Recognizing a Reputable Company

- **AMÖ member** (Bundesverband Möbelspedition) — quality seal
- **Business registration** and **transport insurance** present
- **No prepayment** — payment after the move
- **Contract** with detailed service description
- **Check reviews** on Google, Trustpilot

Warning About Disreputable Providers

- **Extremely low quotes** (under €300 for 3-bedroom) — often extra charges on moving day
- **No written confirmation** — unreliable
- **Cash payment without invoice** — no insurance, no tax deduction

Money-Saving Tips

- 1. Partial load (Beiladung):** If your items fit in a truck heading your direction anyway — up to **50% cheaper**
- 2. Move during the week:** Monday to Thursday often 20–30% cheaper than weekends
- 3. Avoid month-end:** Early and mid-month — moving companies are less busy
- 4. Pack yourself:** DIY packing saves €200–500
- 5. Sell furniture:** Less to transport = less to pay (eBay Kleinanzeigen, Facebook Marketplace)