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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 m²)	**€400–800**	
2-bedroom (up to 60 m²)	**€600–1,200**	
3-bedroom (up to 80 m²)	**€900–1,600**	
4-bedroom (up to 100 m²)	**€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 = **€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)
