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Finding Housing Online — Best Portals and Tips

Where and how to find an apartment in Germany: portals, application documents, and fraud prevention tips. Updated: March 2026.

Deutsche Begriffe: Wohnungssuche | Immobilienscout24 | WG | Zwischenmiete | Wohnberechtigungsschein

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> Status: March 2026. All information without guarantee.

Most Important Housing Portals

Portal	Type	Costs	Specialty
Immobilienscout24	Rental & Purchase	Free (Premium optional)	Largest portal, most listings
Immowelt	Rental & Purchase	Free	Good for smaller cities
WG-Gesucht	WG Rooms	Free	Best platform for shared apartment search
eBay Kleinanzeigen	Private	Free	Often commission-free, but beware of fraud
Vonovia / LEG	Housing Companies	Free	Directly with major landlords

Preparing Your Application Documents

Landlords in Germany expect a complete **application package**. Prepare the following documents:

- 1. Self-Disclosure Form** — personal data, income, current housing situation
- 2. SCHUFA Credit Report** — orderable online (€29.95)
- 3. Income Verification** — last 3 payslips
- 4. Certificate of No Rental Arrears** — from previous landlord
- 5. ID Card / Passport** — copy
- 6. Brief Cover Letter** — who you are, why you want this apartment

⚠ Recognizing Fraud

- **Never transfer money** before viewing the apartment!
- Be suspicious of offers that seem "too good" (very cheap, prime location)
- No legitimate landlord demands a deposit **before** signing the lease
- No payment via Western Union, Bitcoin, or gift cards

Tips for Foreigners

- **SCHUFA:** As a newcomer you have no SCHUFA score — explain this in your cover letter
- **Guarantor:** Parents or relatives can act as guarantors
- **Temporary Housing:** Rent a furnished room temporarily (wunderflats.com, housinganywhere.com)
- **Social Housing:** Find cheaper apartments with **Wohnberechtigungsschein (WBS)**