

How to sort household waste

In Germany, you have to sort household waste (“Hausmüll”) so that materials such as paper, glass and plastic can be recycled. The non-recyclable waste is called “Restmüll” and disposing of it is expensive. So it is a good idea to remove all the recyclable materials from your waste to leave as little of this “Restmüll” as possible.

The sorting process starts for all of us ‘at source’, in other words in the place where we live. You sort the waste and then take it outside and put it into the correct waste bin.

Just like every other building, the house where you live has bins of different colours. The colour shows you which kind of waste goes into which bin.

The different bins are emptied on different dates. All the dates for the year are printed in a special calendar called the “**Abfall-Kalender**”. You will find a copy of this calendar in the house where you live.

The workers who empty the bins usually come very early in the morning, so late in the evening before the date shown in the “Abfall-Kalender” you have to move the bins for collection out to the street in front of your house so that they can be emptied on the following morning.

It sounds very complicated, but you will soon get used to it, and it is very important to produce as little waste as possible because Germany is such a densely populated country and waste processing is very, very expensive.

What are the different kinds of waste?



Packaging waste (recyclable)

Put packaging waste into the yellow plastic bags (which are distributed regularly), or into the yellow bin belonging to the building where you live. Packaging waste is any lightweight packaging made of plastic, tin-foil or combination of materials. The packaging has to be empty and clean.

- Plastic packaging (empty yoghurt containers, for example)
- Tetra-Pak cartons (empty milk or juice containers, for example)
- Packaging made of plastic film on one side and cardboard or tinfoil on the other (packaging from sliced meat products, for example)
- Aerosol cans (empty hairspray cans or deodorant sprays, for example)
- Tin cans (sardine tins, soup tins or drinks cans, for example)
- Screw tops (off bottles or jam-jars, for example)
- Polystyrene packaging
- Clean plastic foil and empty, clean plastic bags

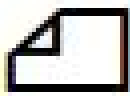
Do not put waste of any other kind into the yellow bag or the yellow bin. The workers sometimes check and if they find bags containing waste that does not belong there they will leave them behind!



Biodegradable waste

Put organic, biodegradable waste into the brown bin.

Potato peelings, fruit peel, vegetables, lettuce leaves, eggshells, cooked leftovers, small bones, fish bones, the leftovers of meat, bread and cake, coffee, teabags, spoiled food (but remember, no packaging materials)



Waste paper

Put waste paper into the big green bin. All waste that is made of paper and that is clean goes in here (newspapers, wrapping paper and cardboard, egg-boxes ...).

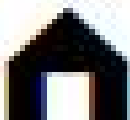


Glass for recycling

Put glass for recycling into the other big green bin. Everything made of glass goes in here (except window glass and mirror glass).

Be careful:

Some glass bottles are **returnable bottles**, because when the product was bought in the shop a deposit was paid on the bottle. Bring the empty bottles back to the shop to collect the deposit. A returnable bottle is marked “Mehrweg” or “Pfand”. Do not put these bottles into the bottle bin.



Residual waste

This is the Restmüll, the non-recyclable domestic waste left over after you have removed all the recyclable items. Put this Restmüll in the black bin.

Used incandescent light bulbs (LED bulbs, energy-saving bulbs, fluorescent tubes are all hazardous waste), cigarette butts, used cigarette lighters, broken dishes, floor sweepings, full vacuum-cleaner bags, used napkins, kitchen towels, sanitary towels, nappies, dirty plastic bags and so on ... go in here.

Other items

Used batteries, fridges, electrical appliances, cooking oil, leftover tins of paint, old clothes and furniture – anything too big to fit into the black bin, and anything marked with a symbol indicating that it is not domestic waste (in with an X). All these items are collected separately. Do not put them into the “Restmüll” black bin for domestic residual waste.

To get more information about this visit:

<http://www.awg-info.de/abfallberatung/privatkunden/index.php>

If you have questions just ask a neighbour or a member of the AK Asyl.

What is the best way to do it?

Separate the waste indoors and put everything into the correct bin

Sort at source in the building and use separate containers:

- Use the **yellow plastic bag** for all your packaging waste, and as the bags fill up put them somewhere outside where they will not be a nuisance to other people.
- Use the **small brown bins** in the kitchen for organic, biodegradable waste. Use a piece of old newspaper to cover the waste in the small brown bin in the kitchen. Empty this bin as often as possible into the **big brown bin** outside.
- Use a small bin with a plastic bin liner for the non-recyclable domestic ‘Restmüll’. When the bin liner is full put it in the **black bin** outside.

- Put paper waste and glass for recycling straight into the big **green bins** outside.

The symbols on the bins outside show you which bin is the right one.

Putting the bins in the right place at the right time for collection

The symbols on the bins are also in the "**Abfall-Kalender**":

That shows you the date when each of the different bins will be collected.

The calendar might also show the abbreviation for one or two of the 3 villages that are part of Althengstett:

"Alt" for Althengstett

"Neu" for Neuhengstett

"Ott" for Ottenbronn

The abbreviation means that the collection is only in that particular village on that particular date.

If there no abbreviation the collection on that date is in all three villages, Althengstett, Neuhengstett and Ottenbronn.

Example: On Friday the 8th, glass for recycling (bottle symbol) will be collected only in Neuhengstett and Ottenbronn



Example: On Monday the 18th, non-recyclable domestic Restmüll (house symbol) and organic waste (bitten apple symbol) will be collected in Althengstett, Neuhengstett and Ottenbronn



Remember, the workers who collect the bins come **very early**. Be sure to put the bins out the **evening of the day before the collection**.

The waste collection truck has a mechanical gripper for the bins, so you have to position the bins beside each other and close to the edge of the footpath, so that the mechanical gripper can reach them. The arrow on the bin has to point toward the roadway. The yellow bags containing packaging waste have to be placed on the street where it will be easy for the workers to collect them. Stack them neatly against the wall or fence of your building where they will not be in the way of people walking past.

Be careful: If the waste from your building is not collected because it wasn't sorted correctly or because the bins were not put outside in time for the collection, the waste will have to be taken away at some other time and this will mean additional work and additional cost!

Waste disposal in Germany is very expensive ...

So good luck and just ask somebody if you have a problem or if you need more information.

Verpackungen ·
Packaging · Ambalajlar
· ambalaže ·
Opakowania · упаковка
· paketim

التعبئة والتغليف
بيكيجنگ



Bioabfall ·
Biodegradable waste ·
Biyo atıklar · biołoški
otpad · Odpady BIO ·
bioотходы · biowaste

نفايات بيولوجية
حياتياتى فضلہ



Restmüll · Residual
waste · Normal çöp ·
ostalo smeće · Odpady
nieczystego śmieci
przydomowego ·
остаточные отходы ·
mbeturinave mbetur

بقايا القمامة
بقايا فضلہ



Papier, Papp · Paper,
Cardboard · Kâğıt,
mukawa · papir, karton ·
Papier, tektura · бумага,
картон · letër

ورق، كارتون
كاغذ



Flaschen, Gläser ·
Bottles, glasses ·
Şişeler, camlar · boce,
staklo · Butelki, sloiki ze
szkła · бутылки, банки ·
gotë

زجاجات، غلب
گلاس

