

German Rental Vocabulary Cheat Sheet

A quick reference for common terms you will see in German rental ads, contracts and emails
Keep this handy when you search or sign.

German term	Meaning
Anmeldung	Official registration of your address with the local authority
Hausordnung	House rules (noise, rubbish, cleaning, common areas)
Kaltmiete	Basic rent for the flat, without service charges
Warmmiete	Rent including service charges (Kaltmiete + Nebenkosten)
Nebenkosten	Service charges (heating, water, garbage, building costs)
Kaution	Rental deposit (usually up to three months' basic rent)
Mietvertrag	Rental contract
Mietspiegel	Local rent index showing typical rents for the area
Mietpreisbremse	Rent brake regulation in some high-demand areas
Mieter	Tenant
Vermieter	Landlord
Untermiete	Subletting
Untermieter	Subtenant
Befristet	Fixed-term (contract with an end date)
Unbefristet	Open-ended (no fixed end date)
WG (Wohngemeinschaft)	Shared flat
Schufa	Common credit report used by landlords and banks
Übergabeprotokoll	Handover protocol at move-in or move-out