

Furniture and Appliances Guide

Overview

One of the biggest surprises for Filipinos moving to Germany: **most apartments come completely empty**. No kitchen, no lights, sometimes not even curtains. You will need to furnish and equip your apartment from scratch. The good news is Berlin has an amazing second-hand culture that can save you thousands of euros.

What German Apartments Usually DON'T Include

- **Kitchen** — Yes, really. Most unfurnished apartments have NO kitchen at all. No cabinets, no countertop, no sink, no stove. You either buy/bring one or negotiate with the previous tenant to buy theirs (Ablöse).
- **Light fixtures** — Often just bare wires hanging from the ceiling
- **Curtains/blinds** — Usually not included

What IS typically included: Bathroom fixtures (toilet, sink, bathtub/shower), heating radiators, sometimes flooring.

Second-Hand Platforms (Best Value)

Platform	Best For	Tips
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Kleinanzeigen	Everything — furniture, appliances, kitchens	Filter by "zu verschenken" (giving away for free). Negotiate prices. Many people sell entire kitchens for €200-500 when moving out.
Facebook Marketplace	Furniture, decor, appliances	Join "Free Your Stuff Berlin" and expat furniture groups
eBay.de	Appliances, electronics	Auction format can give great deals

Second-Hand Stores in Berlin

- **BSR NochMall** (formerly Stilbruch) — Berlin's waste management company runs a second-hand store. Furniture, appliances, household items at very low prices. Havensteinstraße 40, Reinickendorf.
- **Humana** (multiple locations) — Primarily clothing but some locations have furniture and household items
- **Oxfam** — Charity shops with household items and kitchenware
- **Sozialkaufhaus** — Social department stores with discounted used furniture. Several locations (e.g., Möbel in Neukölln).
- **IKEA Fundgrube** — The "As-Is" section at IKEA stores sells returned and display items at 50-70% off

Sperrmüll: Free Furniture on the Street

Berlin has a culture of leaving unwanted furniture on the street for others to take. This is called **Sperrmüll** (bulky waste). You will regularly see:

- Shelves, tables, chairs on sidewalks
- Sometimes perfectly good sofas and bed frames
- Often with a "Zu verschenken" (for free) sign

Tips:

- Best finds are on the 1st and 15th of the month (when people move)
- Check for bedbugs (Bettwanzen) before taking upholstered furniture — this is a real risk in Berlin
- Solid wood furniture is safe to take; mattresses are NOT recommended

Budget New Furniture

Store	Price Level	Best For
IKEA	€-€€	Everything. 4 locations in Berlin. Delivery ~€39-69. Tip: Check the "Fundgrube" (As-Is) section first.
POCO	€	Very cheap basics — bed frames, mattresses, shelves. Quality is basic but functional.
Roller	€	Similar to POCO, budget furniture and ready-made kitchens
Höffner	€€-€€€	Mid-range, good for kitchens and living room furniture
home24	€€	Online-first, free delivery and returns, modern designs

Kitchen: Your Biggest Expense

A new fitted kitchen (Einbauküche) costs €2,000-8,000+. Ways to save:

- **Buy from the previous tenant (Ablöse)** — If the apartment has a kitchen, negotiate with the person moving out. Common practice, saves both parties money. Typical: €500-2,000.
- **IKEA METOD kitchens** — Most affordable new option (~€1,500-3,000 with appliances). Can assemble yourself or hire someone via TaskRabbit (~€200-400).
- **POCO/Roller ready-made kitchens** — Küchenzeile (kitchenette) from €300-800, basic but functional
- **Kleinanzeigen** — Search "Küche" + your Bezirk (district). People often sell entire kitchens for €200-800 before moving out.

Appliances

Must-Buy Appliances

- **Washing machine** (Waschmaschine) — €250-600 new. Look for A-rated energy efficiency. Used from €50-150 on Kleinanzeigen.

- **Refrigerator** (Kühlschrank) — €200-500 new. Often included if you buy an existing kitchen.
- **Stove/Oven** (Herd) — €200-500 new. Usually part of the kitchen.

Where to Buy Appliances

- [MediaMarkt](#) / [Saturn](#) — Largest electronics retailers. Watch for sales.
- [AO.de](#) — Online appliance specialist, good prices, free delivery and old appliance removal
- **Kleinanzeigen** — Used appliances. Always test before buying.
- **Refurbished** — Check [Back Market](#) for refurbished electronics at 20-40% off

Flea Markets for Home Goods

- **Mauerpark** (Sundays 10-18h) — Vintage, kitchenware, decorative items. Fun to browse but prices can be inflated for tourists.
- **Boxhagener Platz** (Sundays 10-18h) — Books, furniture, design items. More local, better prices than Mauerpark.
- **Nowkoelln Flowmarkt** (Maybachufer) — Curated, hipster-friendly. Good for unique home decor.
- **Berliner Trödelmarkt** (Straße des 17. Juni, Saturdays & Sundays) — Large, touristy but has good antique furniture finds.

Typical Costs: Furnishing from Scratch

Item	Budget Option	Mid-Range
Kitchen (complete)	€300-800 (used/POCO)	€1,500-3,000 (IKEA)
Bed frame + mattress	€100-200 (IKEA/used)	€400-800
Sofa	€50-200 (used/IKEA)	€400-800
Washing machine	€50-150 (used)	€300-500
Dining table + chairs	€30-100 (used)	€150-400
Lights/lamps	€20-50 (IKEA)	€50-150
TOTAL	€550-1,500	€2,800-5,650

Pro tip: Join the Filipino in Berlin Facebook group and post what you need. Outgoing expats often sell everything at once for great prices when leaving Germany.

Revision #2

Created 2026-06-05 23:38:01 UTC by Ben Adrian Sarmiento

Updated 2026-06-06 06:17:44 UTC by Ben Adrian Sarmiento