

Waste management in Germany



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Facts about waste in Germany

A lot of waste is produced by the 82 million people in Germany:

- every German produces 611 kg of waste every year
 - 37 kg of this is plastic waste
- only four countries in Europe produce more plastic !
- in 2016 Germans used 6 billion plastic bags
 - these plastic bags were in average only used for about 25 minutes
- only about 42% of this plastic waste is being recycled
- but 87% of packaging is reused
- 600.000 tons waste electrical equipment are produced in Germany every year



Waste Management

In every household in Germany there are 5 different bins for rubbish

1. biodegradable waste
2. paper
3. packaging
4. glass
5. residual waste



Biodegradable Waste

Everything that decomposes is collected separately.

- it is either put into the own garden for composting or collected in the brown bin for composting

- when it is collected you pay for the amount of rubbish you produce

- new soil is made from it



Glass

There are two different types of glass:

- deposit bottles: for many bottles you buy you have to pay extra for the bottle, but when you bring the bottles back to the shop, you get this money back.
- nonrefundable/ on-way glass: people collect it seperately and bring it to special recycling bins -

Glass is recycled to almost 100%.

- you don't have to pay anything



Packaging

Packaging is collected in yellow bins.

- mainly plastic, but also metal (e.g. tins), or milk cartons
- this packaging is picked up by the rubbish collection service
- Most of this rubbish is recycled.
- But it is not so easy to recycle this, because it has to be sorted first. Some of this rubbish is sent to other countries for recycling.
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- you don't have to pay for this
- waste



Residual Waste

Residual waste (everything that cannot be recycled or composted)

- it is being collected by the rubbish collection service
- this is the most expensive waste for households
- you pay for the amount you produce
- this way people are trying to produce as little waste as they can



Residual Waste

- About 35 % of this waste is burned in waste incineration plants
- The energy produced
- is used for electricity



Residual Waste

- Other parts of the residual waste are put onto rubbish dumps.
- Later soil is put onto the dumps and grass grows.



Metal, wood, batteries, ...

- All other waste is collected in recycling stations
- You have to pay to bring it there
- Most of this is being recycled

