

Those 101 “little” differences in Germany (other than language per se) and by reverse logic differences in U.S. as reported by Americans and Germans. Some correspond to cultural themes, but others do not. Some are related to geography, infrastructure, and popular culture so that some also change with time. Although it is possible to find exceptions in each country, these differences represent what is *commonly found in each country*.

Doors with overlapping edges
Outside metal window shades
Larger sugar and salt granules
Toilet technology varies

Parking on the sidewalks allowed
Cigarette machines outside on sidewalks
Cold/Hot faucets turn in opposite directions
Only carbonated water served in restaurants and dinners

Level of some rooms change
Parking lines made of different colored or patterned bricks
Slow service in restaurants (don't force you to leave: “can I get you anything else?”)
Bike for day-to-day business and serious travel

Trains used for mass transit
Electrical cords draped from box to lamp on ceilings
Lights on timers in public hallways
Switches are two- and four-way flat toggle

Houses made of cement block
Tile and slate roofs, not asphalt shingles
Slow, different, complex washing machines
Smaller refrigerators

Kitchens that are “removable”
Glass bottles made of PYREX quality
Milk in boxes and not refrigerated
Snack foods in smaller containers than in U.S.

Smaller ice cream servings and containers
Comforters used as top sheets/spread on beds
Twin bed have separate bedding and comforters
Flowers are everywhere and relatively inexpensive

Eating outside with fewer hostile, aggressive insects
Rolls and pastry are not as sweet
Most inside doors have a working locks
Bathroom doors closed and locks often indicate occupancy

Most rooms have a door (some with opaque glass)
Fill lines on every type of glass in restaurants
Very little or no ice in drinks
People hold utensils differently

Business “coffee and cookies” in afternoon and for business meetings
No air conditioning in buildings and most cars
Different school system (grade/high school/college)
Students photocopy whole books

Windows not always open on hot days--drafts avoided
Dogs in stores, restaurants, trains, and airports
Ironing boards squared off at end and irons with huge water containers
Bread sold by the weight

Bakeries everywhere
Metric system used everywhere (hectares vs acres)
Few or no washcloths (but wash mitts)
Partial nudity on over the air TV (commercials)

Small silverware and more/different pieces
Square pillows
Two-way windows (open down and out)
Beer at McDonalds and Burger King

Stores close early compared to US (no 24-hour)
Letter paper size A4 (slightly longer and narrower)
Hash marks on business stationery for folding and hole-punching
Hole in back of binders to pull off shelves

Printing on book spines reads up
Diet Coke (or other food) is called Coke “Light”
Cars are different, often smaller or very high powered
Electrical system (220 volts and current)

Electrical outlets (inset and two prongs)
Sidewalks are constructed with concrete pavers (not poured cement)
Little grass parkway (between sidewalk and street)
Clothes made differently (for hot weather)

Work ethic/ethos is very strong
More direct comments and “small talk” is not used

No screens on windows
Bird variety is different (Magpie and others)

Landscape is different (volcanic hills with castle ruins)
Busses are different (enter in rear and meter tickets)
Busses have accommodations for baby carriages and bikes
Baby carriage ramps

Little gardens in town and on outskirts
Highway speed limits high or none in areas
More difficult driving environment (Germans find U.S. driving “relaxing”)
Paper money different colors and sizes

More coins: Euros have more coins and no one Euro bill (“Germans prefer coinage”)
Alcohol available at all restaurants
Letters on the phone different (#6 has only MN)
Handwrite numbers differently (1, 4, 7, and 9)

Alphabet somewhat different: ß, ö, ä, ü
Batteries are included with toys
Hanging toggle switches on lamps
Design of eyeglasses different

Eyeglass shops everywhere
Sirens on emergency vehicles use different sound)
Few German flags and national symbols
Commercials on TV are fewer during programs (but seven minutes)

Hand held showers rather than fixed shower heads or on poles
Few built-in closets in houses (free standing wardrobes)
Woven baskets for grocery shopping
Exit doors often swing inside of rooms/some buildings

Grocery stores do not bag groceries
Calendars start on Monday (rather than Sunday)
More vacation time (4-6 weeks)
More public holidays (11-14)

More smoking everywhere (although changing)
Baby carriage rain covers
No medicine cabinets in bathrooms
Individual water heaters/tanks in kitchens/bathrooms

Covers over the toilet paper rolls
People are comparatively quiet on public transport and in restaurants (privacy)
No bread or crackers with lunch or dinner in restaurants
Restaurants serve food to individuals as prepared

Commas instead of decimal points (reverse)
No hostess or assigned seating in restaurants (sit where you want)
Few people in Germany have middle names/initials
Children's first names must be "approved"

Scaffolding (no extension ladders) for commercial house painting
No overhead power or service lines (buried)
No lawn mowing or house repair on Sunday
Only one staircase in apartment houses

Many pharmacies (Apotheken) for only medical
No hot air heating systems (radiators or under-floor heat)
Cooking recipes measured by weight (not by cups)
All forests and fields open to the public

More privacy fences, hedges, and walls in front of suburban houses
Evening invitations usually later than in the U.S. (around 8+ pm)
No drive-in banks or similar services
Lunch is main meal for most people

No toll roads
Keyboard configuration slightly difference (z/y, [brackets], single quotation marks)
Egg cups for breakfast everywhere in Germany
Looking at friends through windows as train leaves station