



Housing

Import into Switzerland

When moving to Switzerland, you can import free of charge all household effects, collections, pets and vehicles that you have already used for a minimum of 6 months. However, you are required to declare your relocation goods at the customs office. This involves completing the 'Application/customs declaration for clearance of household effects' form and presenting the following documents:

- Proof of your change of domicile (employment contract, tenancy agreement, confirmation of deregistration).
- Non-EU 25 nationals: confirmation of residence permit) Inventory list of your household effects (no details required unless the effects are subject to import restrictions)

The application/customs declaration for clearance of household effects and further information regarding imports into Switzerland is available on the website of the Swiss Federal Customs Administration: www.bazg.admin.ch → Information individuals → Personal property, students, holiday homes, getting married and inheritance → Importation into Switzerland

Bringing pets or animal products into the country requires proper planning. Visit the website of the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office in good time to acquaint yourself with the import requirements: www.blv.admin.ch → Import and Export

Registration of dogs

Dog owners are required to register their dogs with the Veterinary Office once their dog has reached the age of 3 months; or within 10 days of its purchase or relocation to the Canton of Basel-Stadt. The registration can be completed online at:

www.veterinaeramt.bs.ch → Hunde → An/Abmeldung und Steuer → Anmeldung von Hunden [Dogs → De/registration & tax → Registration of dogs]

Looking for accommodation

Most of the local newspapers publish classifieds on a weekly basis. You can also look for rented accommodation on the Internet. Furthermore, it may be worth contacting property management companies which are usually in charge of many rental properties and may be in a position to offer you a flat. If you are interested in a particular flat, the first step is normally to fill out a registration form. As proof of your ability to pay the rent, landlords often ask for an extract from the debt enforcement register or for a different proof of income.

The extract from the debt enforcement register can be ordered at: www.bka.bs.ch

OR at the at the counter of the *Betreibungsamt*.

Betreibungsamt Basel-Stadt [Debt Enforcement Office Basel-Stadt]

Aeschenvorstadt 56
P.O. Box
CH-4001 Basel
Phone [+41 61 267 81 81](tel:+41612678181)

Rented accommodation

Once you have found a flat, a tenancy agreement will be concluded with the landlord. Before moving in, you have to pay a deposit which may amount to three months' rent and will be paid into a rent deposit account in your name. The deposit serves as collateral for the landlord and will be repaid with interest after you move out. You have the right to move into a clean and serviceable flat. Before you move in, the flat will be officially handed over to you. During this handover, you will check the condition of the flat together with the landlord and record any deficiencies or damage (even minor damage!) in a log. As a rule, tenants pay their rent in advance for the coming month. On top of this, there are service charges, for instance for heating, hot water or cable television. Landlords may use different billing methods for these charges. If they are billed in advance, a detailed statement must be issued at least once a year. Depending on the amount, you may have to make an additional payment or may receive money back. Where landlords want to raise the rent (for instance after renovations or when mortgage costs go up), they have to use an official form to notify their tenants. If you think the raise is unjustified, you may submit a written objection to the arbitration office within a period of 30 days.

Staatliche Schlichtungsstelle für Mietstreitigkeiten [Arbitration Office For Rent Disputes]

Utengasse 36
CH-4005 Basel
Phone [+41 61 267 85 18](tel:+41612678518)
www.mietberatung.bs.ch

Tip: We advise you to take out liability insurance which covers all damage tenants may cause to their properties. Further information is available under "Social security".

Living together

In the interest of good neighbourly relations, residents must show mutual respect and follow certain rules. Quiet times during the night last from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. and during the day from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. During these hours, televisions and music equipment must be kept at low volume and loud activities should be avoided. Noise should also be avoided on Sundays and bank holidays. If you are planning a party, it is advisable to notify your neighbours well in advance. Entrances, stairwells, parking areas and other common areas are used by all tenants and should be kept clean and free of any personal belongings. Many buildings have separate rules for the tenants' use of the laundry room. Pets, such as cats and dogs, are not allowed in all buildings. The relevant information can be found in the tenancy agreement. Most of the applicable regulations are set out in the house rules. Neighbours who fail to resolve disputes among themselves, for instance over noise or untidiness, may contact the caretaker or the landlord.

Tip: If you would like to learn more about Swiss culture, its particular characteristics as well as unwritten laws and taboos in Switzerland, we recommend you attend the “Wie tickt die Schweiz? Typically Swiss!?” event organised by GGG Migration. Further information, as well as the link for on-line registration is available at: www.ggg-migration.ch → informieren → Wie tickt die Schweiz? Typically Swiss!?

Buying property

EU/EFTA nationals who are resident in Switzerland have the same rights as Swiss nationals when it comes to buying property and do not require a permit.

Third country nationals may buy their main residence (e.g. detached house or owner-occupied flat) and/or a building plot at their place of residence without requiring a permit if the following conditions are met:

- They must hold a valid residence permit.
- They must occupy the flat themselves – as long as they are a resident at this location.
- They must start any building work on their plot within the space of one year.

A permit is required for the following types of flats:

- Holiday homes
- Residential units in so-called ‘apartment hotels’
- Second homes

Foreign nationals are not automatically entitled to a residence permit if they own a property in Switzerland.

Waste/recycling

In Basel-Stadt, household waste, paper, cardboard, bulky goods, metal and organic waste will be collected in your neighbourhood. Household waste is disposed of in blue bin bags [*Bebbi-Sagg*] which are available in most retail shops (e.g. Coop, Denner, Migros). Just ask at the till.

The bags come in different sizes:

- 17 litres, 10-bag roll for CHF 12
- 35 litres, 10-bag roll for CHF 23
- 60 litres, 10-bag roll for CHF 33

The price of the *Bebbi bags* also includes the waste disposal fee.

The waste collection schedule for your neighbourhood can be found in your zone plan which you can collect from the Residents’ Registration Office upon application. Alternatively, you can look it up online at:

www.tiefbauamt.bs.ch → Entsorgung & Sauberkeit → Hausabfall entsorgen [Dispose of household waste]

Combustible materials weighing up to 10 kg which do not fit into the *Bebbi bag* can be put out in front of the house on any collection day. Simply attach a bulky goods sticker [*Sperrgutvignette*]. Bulky goods stickers cost CHF 4.50 and are available in most Coop or Migros shops, in chemists and at the customer service centre of the Residents’ Registration Office of Basel-Stadt. Combustible materials weighing over 10kg are referred to as oversized bulky goods and must be registered with the municipal waste collection service.

Drägg-Wägg App

The Dräggwägg app reminds you in time of the next waste, paper or metal collection and provides information on all collection dates for a year. It helps to find recycling stations and to dispose of all types of waste correctly.

Glass, tins and batteries can be disposed of at the recycling centres. The city of Basel provides so-called Bio-Klappen for all organic waste. You can obtain further information on this subject, as well as details regarding proper, environmentally compatible disposal of other waste, either by phone or electronically from the civil engineering office:

Tiefbauamt Basel-Stadt [Civil Engineering Office Basel-Stadt] Stadtreinigung [Sanitation Department]

Brüssel-Strasse 22

CH-4053 Basel

Sauberkeitshotline [Sanitation hotline] [+41 61 267 10 00](tel:+41612671000)

www.tiefbauamt.bs.ch → Entsorgung & Sauberkeit

Community centres

Subsidised by the Basel government, the city's 15 community centres [*Quartiertreffpunkte*] are meeting places for all members of the local population irrespective of their culture, language or social origin. They offer a wide range of services for young families, senior citizens, long-time residents and new arrivals alike. Further information is available at: www.qtp-basel.ch

Neutral Neighbourhood Associations

The 16 neutral neighbourhood associations represent local interests, in particular where transport and housing quality is concerned. They also organise cultural and social events for their members and the local community. Further information is available on the websites of the individual neutral neighbourhood associations. An overview of the websites can be found at: www.entwicklung.bs.ch → Stadtteile → Quartierarbeit → Quartierorganisationen [Districts → Community work and participation → Community organisations]