

Live Like a German

Reference Guide

The Kraft Family's Apartment @ Goethestrasse 5

Email: live-like-a-german@reinerkraft.net

Phone: +1 (408) 852-1727

Getting Help

If you need additional help, or encounter problems please don't hesitate to contact us: Either per email live-like-a-german@reinerkraft.net or via phone (408) 852-1727. Don't forget the US prefix. So this would be 001 (408) 852-1727. Also, please note the time difference. We are in Germany at time zone GMT +1. In California we have GMT -8, so you're 9 hours ahead here. Typically a good time to reach us is after 5pm in Germany.

General Rules

- Our apartment is a **strictly non-smoking apartment** and we ask you to be kind and respect this rule.
- If you want to light candles for ambiance, please do so, but make sure you use them cautiously and **blow out candles after each use**.
- The lower apartment is being rented out on a regular base. The tenants are very kind and nice people. Please **try to keep the noise level low after 9 p.m. and until 7 a.m.**

Operating the TV / DVD / Satellite receiver

In the living room there are three remotes located in the top shelf above the TV. One is for the TV, one for the DVD, and one for the satellite receiver:

- Skymaster remote: controls the satellite receiver and channels
- Toshiba remote is for the DVD player
- Philips remote is for the TV

To watch TV:

- Turn on the Antenna on the sideboard (if not already on)
- Turn on the Skymaster satellite receiver to power on the remote
- Turn on the TV using the Philips remote

- You should see a picture now. Use the Skymaster remote to change the channels
- If you don't see a picture yet, the TV maybe set to a different source. Use the 'AV' button in the top upper left to bring up the on-screen menu showing you the different sources. Use the 'arrow' up/down buttons on the TV remote to go to 'Ext 1' source. Once this is selected use the arrow right button to select it. Once the TV is set to 'Ext' source you should see a TV picture.
- If you still don't see a picture make sure TV and Skymaster receiver are on. Also, the antenna needs to be turned on.

To watch a DVD / play a CD:

- Turn on the TV
- Turn on the DVD player
- Use the 'AV' button on the TV remote to set it to 'HD', and then click the right arrow button on the TV remote to select it.

We have manuals for TV, DVD, and satellite receiver located in the TV cabinet for further reference. Please note that the DVD player will not play back US DVDs, since they have a different region code. However, you can buy or rent some local DVDs that play back fine.

Internet

The apartment provides wireless network connectivity for accessing the Internet. Just search for wireless networks on your notebook or PDA device. Our network is called 'WLAN'. There is no security code (WEP key) needed. Make sure the router is turned on (it should be). It is located in the living room below the table where the phone is.

Phone

The apartment has a phone connection. You can use it to make local calls if needed.

The local phone number is (06441) 2094871. If some of your friends from the US want to call you they have to dial the country specific prefix. In this case this is: 01149 (6441) 2094871

You can also make long distance or international calls, but these will be charged extra. To dial a US number don't forget to use (001) prefix, so for example a number like (408) 852-1727 would be 001 (408) 852-1727. Calling our hot-line is free of charge.

We also have an answering machine that you can use. If enabled the phone rings up to 4 times before the answering machine picks up. You can disable the answering machine.

We have a manual for the phone and answering machine located in the TV cabinet.

Electricity

The apartment has 220 Volts everywhere. The outlets also use a different power connector. We have two adapters that you can use for your electrical devices (e.g., for charging a cell-phone, digital camera etc.) They are located in the TV cabinet. Please make sure that your device supports 220 Volt. Most notebook devices and digital camera have an international power adapter that does. You can verify this by looking at the power adapter. It should say that it supports as input something like "110V – 240V". If in doubt don't plug it in. Otherwise this will very likely destroy your device.

Heating

The apartment is equipped with a central heating system. There are radiators located in every room. In summer months you probably don't need any heating at all. In late fall, winter, and early spring you probably need to use the heating system. To do so you can control each radiator in each room and set it to the desired temperature. Each knob on the control unit has a blue and a red dot. Typically a setting between these two is sufficient.

If you don't need to heat a room don't forget to set the knob back to '1'. This setting uses minimal energy and saves environmental resources.

Kitchen

The kitchen has a stove. There is a child safety knob that prevents unauthorized access from children. To turn on the heating on the top you need to first press a red button in the middle of the dashboard. While pressing it turn on the right-most upper dial (or you can try another one). If successful there should be a red light coming on above the red button. This indicates that the stove is on. You can then use the dials to control which ones are heating and the temperature settings.

The microwave and fridge are pretty much standard. We have a manual for the microwave if needed located in the TV cabinet.

The dishwasher uses cleaning tablets (Somat) that are located in the cabinet below sink. You open up the tablet and remove the surrounding plastic. Then place it into the compartment of the dishwasher. Turn the dial slightly to the right until the dial is below the black small dot. This starts the washing program.

There is also a dock for your iPod (if you have one) located in front of the left kitchen window cell. We have a manual for this one also located in the TV cabinet (along with some adapters for different iPod versions).

Bathroom

For flushing the toilet there are two buttons: A smaller and a bigger one (on the left). This is for more efficient water usage. If you need less water use the small button, otherwise use the larger button. This helps to save our environment.

Washer and Dryer

We have a washer and dryer unit located in the laundry room in the basement.

To use the washer, load the machine (Don't overload the washing machine! Be aware that the capacity of this machine is not as large as the American model), put detergent in the left compartment and fabric softener in the middle one (you don't have to use softener if you don't prefer). The right compartment is for heavily soiled clothes and takes a long time, therefore not very practical for vacationers.

Close the door and choose your program. We like to use the "Mixed" program or the "Short/KURZ" program for colored clothes. "Mixed" takes about an hour, "Kurz" only 15 minutes. For hot washes (towels and undergarments) choose "Hot/Kochwaesche", this program runs for about 1.5 hours. Also make sure to choose the spinning number (400-1400 rpms) on the three touch keys in the middle of the machine as well as the water temperature. For "Mixed" and "Kurz" we recommend 30 degrees Celsius or 40 degrees Celsius, for Kochwaesche/Hot it's usually 60 degrees Celsius and more. The machine goes up to 90 degrees Celsius.

To dry your clothes put them in the dryer, close the door and move the right knob on the dryer to "Schranktrocken" on your left if you have colored clothes and to "Schranktrocken" on the right if it's hot laundry.

Push the start button. A signal will let you know when the laundry is dry.

After drying please make sure to empty the water canister that contains the water from drying. It needs to be emptied at all times or the dryer won't dry and simply stop. Also remove any lint from the lint catcher in the front of the drying drum.

Opening and Closing Blinds (for windows)

There are blinds for each window that can be opened and closed. There is a belt located on the side of each window that can be used for closing and opening the blinds. Those blinds provide excellent insulation against heat and cold. We use them in summer to keep rooms cool when it is hot outside (prevents the sunlight from entering the rooms). We typically close some of them in the evening for additional privacy (mainly in winter).

The blinds in the dining room and kids room are controlled with a remote. This white remote is located in the dining room on the windowsill. There is a small gray button that can be used to toggle between the dining room (second green light) and kids room (first green light) blinds. Or, you can select all. Once you have selected the room you can use the up and down arrow to control the blinds.

Garbage

The garbage and recycle system is similar to the US. Our garbage bins are located outside the house, in the pathway towards the backyard. The door can be locked / unlocked with your key. We recommend to keep the door always locked.

Paper, newspapers, magazines etc. go into the **blue bin**.

The **brown bin** is for “Biomuell”. It has to be decomposable. For example, lawn, weeds, vegetables, fruits etc. or other food that would otherwise go into the garbage disposal needs to be placed in here.

There is also the **“yellow bag”** located in the kitchen pantry. Those yellow bags are also for recycling for all kinds of plastic, plastic bottles, milk containers, foam, etc. It contains a list of things that go in there.

Everything else goes into the **black bin**.

To help our environment and promote recycling we recommend spending some time to make sure garbage gets separated and put into the correct bins.

There is a calendar on the fridge that has a schedule for garbage pickup:

- Waldgirmes is number 3
- The symbols have colors that match the bins:
 - M = Restmuell, this is the black bin
 - B = Biomuell, this is the brown bin
 - P = Kartonage / Paper, this is the blue bin
 - DSD-Saecke = yellow bags

Typically our tenants make sure that the garbage bins are outside for pickup, so you don't have to worry about that. Just make sure all garbage is properly placed in the correct bins, and also full yellow bags are places where the other garbage bins are located.