



This newsletter is published by Naka Ward in English and Chinese to provide foreign nationals with useful information on topics such as municipal administration, social programs and rules for everyday living in the community.

Tips for Renting and Living in Japan

There are some unique rules that foreign nationals should be aware of when renting housing in Japan. Knowing these rules and who to consult about housing problems is very helpful to you.

For this issue, we spoke with Kanagawa Housing Support Center for Foreign Residents, which provides multilingual support for housing matters.

Renting customs specific to Japan

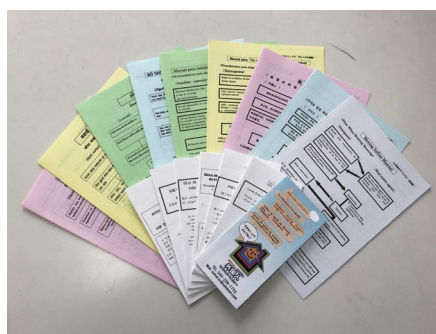
Japan has certain customs for rental housing that can be uncommon in other countries. Knowing these customs will help you avoid trouble.

For example...

- **Reikin (key money):** A one-time, non-refundable payment to the landlord when entering into a rental contract. The amount is usually 1–2 months' rent. Key money may not be required for some rental housing.
- **Koshin-ryo (renewal fee):** A rental contract is normally renewed every two years. A renewal fee is paid to the landlord when the contract is renewed.
- **Common space fee (management fee):** This fee is for the cost of lighting, etc. in shared areas such as stairs and corridors. Sometimes it is paid in cash separately from the rent.
- **Rental hoshonin (joint guarantor):** A person with a sufficient income who agrees to the renter's request to act as a guarantor for delinquent rent or delinquent room repair costs.



NPO Kanagawa Housing Support Center for Foreign Resident
President Pae Ann



Pamphlets translated into 9 languages

What do people commonly ask about?

Nowadays, we get a lot of consultations about trouble when moving house, for noise, and for status of residence and money rather than issues about finding a place to live. When we started the consultation desk 18 years ago, it was difficult for foreign nationals to even find a place to live. It's now easier because, overall, the real estate industry has developed a deeper understanding about renting to non-Japanese. However, there are still cases of unfair housing contracts because a renter does not speak Japanese. Where there is knowledge, there is no fear. It's easier to find a solution early if you have housing-related worries. We recommend coming to talk with us before the problem gets too big.

Kanagawa Housing Support Center for Foreign Resident

Address: Yokohama YMCA 2F, 1-7 Tokiwa-cho, Naka-ku
Tel: 045-228-1752

Open
Monday–Friday
10 a.m.–5 p.m.

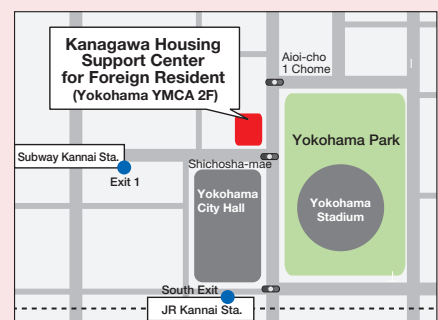


Consultations for foreigners about housing and living in Japan.

Consultations are provided in 9 languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepali and Thai.



Staff at the support center



Basic Rules and Manners for Living in Japan

Apart from language and cultural differences, Japan has very specific rules and manners for putting out household waste and for other daily living affairs. Although it can be somewhat inconvenient, it is important to follow these rules to keep good relationship with your neighbors.

Garbage and Recyclables

Separating

In Yokohama, waste is separated and collected by category for recycling purposes.

■ Go here for further instructions on separating waste!

* Available in 9 languages (English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese, French)



Putting out at the collection site

Time: By 8 a.m. on the scheduled collection day (not the night before or after the collection truck has come)

Day: The collection day for each waste type is posted at collection sites. Please check that you are putting out the right kind of waste on the right day.

Use separate transparent or semi-transparent bags for each type of waste.

Noise in Daily Life

The neighbors in your housing complex (apartment, etc.), including those above and below you, will hear noises from your daily life. Please do not make loud noises, especially from late evening to early morning!

The following are considered “noisy” when they are loud.

- TV, music, video games
- Doors or windows being opened or closed



- Home appliances (vacuums, washing machines, etc.)

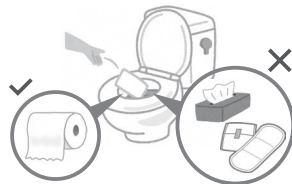
- Loud talking



Bathing Area and Toilet

Overflows from a clogged bathroom drain or toilet can cause major issues. If an overflow causes problems for a person in an apartment below, you may have to pay compensation to that person.

- Don't let hair go down the drain
- Flush only toilet paper



Shared Areas

Stairs and corridors are shared and serve as emergency evacuation routes when a quake or fire occurs. Please keep these areas clear.

- Do not leave objects on the stairs or in the corridor.



Applying for Municipal and Prefectural Housing

■ Municipal Housing

Applications are accepted twice a year, in April and October.

■ Prefectural Housing

Applications for lottery selection are accepted twice a year, in May and November. Applications for any remaining apartments after the lottery selection are accepted from mid-April (basically first-come, first-served).

* Kanagawa Housing Support Center for Foreign Residents will assist you if you are unsure how to fill out the application, etc.

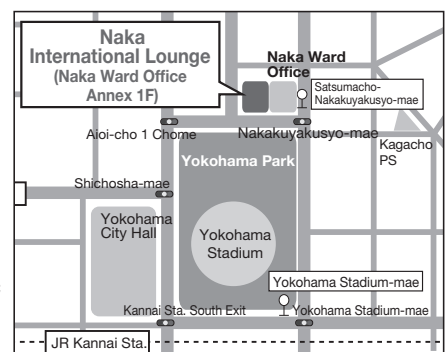
Naka International Lounge

Open: Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Tue, Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m.
(10 a.m.–5 p.m. on a public holiday)

Closed: Third Sunday of every month

Naka International Lounge provides multilingual information for various daily living matters in Japan. Please feel free to consult about basic rules and manners for living in Japan.

Naka Ward Office Annex 1F, 35 Nihon-odori, Naka-ku, Yokohama 231-0021
TEL: 045-210-0667



Responses to inquiries will be in Japanese unless it is clearly indicated that the response should be in English or Chinese.

Entering a Yokohama Municipal Elementary School

Children born between April 2, 2013 and April 1, 2014 are eligible to enroll in Grade 1 from April 2020. Families with a child of foreign nationality will be sent a Japanese-language guide to school enrollment (入学案内) in September. If you plan to enroll your child in a Yokohama municipal elementary school, bring the guide or the child's Residence Card (在留カード) to the *Toroku* (Registration) Section (Counter 23) on the 2nd floor of the Naka Ward Office. The guide is sent only to registered residents, so please come to the *Toroku* Section for registration if your situation differs from the above.

Note 1: Japanese nationals are sent a Notification of school entrance (就学通知書) by post in the middle of October. There are no procedures required, but please note the information about the required health examination and take your child to the health examination on the indicated date.

Note 2: Guardians of children with Japanese nationality and another nationality who will attend an international school are requested to contact the *Toroku* Section.

<**Toroku (Registration) Section**
(Counter 23, 2F), Naka Ward Office,
Tel: 045-224-8295>

Submit Your Notification of Present Conditions (現況届) for the Child-Rearing Allowance (児童扶養手当) by August 31

All recipients of this allowance must submit a notification of present conditions by August 31 each year in order to receive the allowance. If the notification is not submitted in time, payment of the allowance will be stopped after August. Information (in Japanese) will be sent out by post, so please bring the required documents to the Naka Ward Office before the deadline.

▶ Acceptance period: August 14–16
(Wed.–Fri.), 9–11 a.m. and 1–3 p.m.

▶ Submission counter: 7F meeting room,
Naka Ward Office
* From August 19–30, submit at Counter 54 on
the 5th floor.
<**Kodomo Katei Shien (Children and Families
Support) Division, Naka Ward Office,**
Tel: 045-224-8171>

Summer Vacation Factory Tour (Free)

Calling for participants for an educational factory tour for the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle). This event is aimed at foreign residents.

- ▶ Date/time: July 23 (Tue.), 12 p.m.–5 p.m.
(Gather at Naka International Lounge.)
- ▶ Capacity: Up to 40 people with connections to a foreign country (Preschool children are not accepted; elementary school children must be accompanied by a guardian.)
- ▶ Applications: From July 1 (Mon.) to Naka International Lounge by phone, by email or fax, or in person. State the event name and participants' name, age, address, phone number and main language. A chartered bus will be used for transportation.

<**Naka International Lounge**
(Naka Ward Office Annex),
Tel: 045-210-0667, Fax: 045-224-8343,
nakalounge@yoke.or.jp>

Protect Yourself from Food Poisoning!!

From rainy season to the end of summer, the hot, humid weather makes an excellent breeding ground for the bacteria that cause food poisoning. The major symptoms of food poisoning are fever, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea. Serious cases can result in hospitalization or even death.

How to Avoid Food Poisoning

◆ When shopping

Return home soon after shopping and immediately put meat and fish in the fridge. (Below 10°C)



◆ When cooking

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap. Do not let vegetables to be eaten raw come in contact with uncooked meat or fish. Thoroughly cook meat and put remaining food in the refrigerator right away.



◆ When eating

Wash your hands and eat as soon as the food is ready.



You can't tell visually or by smell if a food item is contaminated with bacteria that cause food poisoning.



Center heated to 75°C
for at least 1 minute.

Naka Ward Multilingual Website

This website provides information on government services and events in English, Chinese, Korean and simple Japanese in addition to regular Japanese. Updated monthly. Naka Ward Town News can be viewed online as well. Machine translation functions are also available.
<http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/naka/english/>



Second *Shi-kenminzei* (municipal and prefectural resident taxes) Payment Due Monday, September 2

If you received a 納税通知書 (*nozei tsuchisho*, Notification of Taxes) for residence taxes, you need to pay the second installment by the deadline. Make your payment at a bank or other financial institution, or at a convenience store if the payment slip has a bar code. Arranging for automatic deduction from your bank account is also very convenient.

International Service Staff

Naka Ward Office, Counter 23 (2F)
English: 10 a.m.–5 p.m

International Service Staff provides information on ward office activities, interpretation services at counters, and support for filling out certificate applications. Stop by if you would like assistance.

Help Me Know

Q&A



I put out some large (oversized) garbage, but it wasn't collected.
What are the rules I should know about?

⇒ For items over a certain size, you must make a reservation for pickup and pay a fee. Check online for details (size, requirements, etc.) or phone (in Japanese) for assistance.

▼ Apply

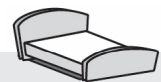
Apply for pickup by phone (in Japanese) or online (English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese). You will be informed of the pickup date (approximately 2 weeks later) and location.

▼ Pay the Fee

A fee is required for oversized garbage pickup. Pay the fee in advance at a convenience store in Yokohama to receive the necessary stickers. Affix the stickers to the item(s).

▼ Put Out the Item

Put out the item at the designated location by 8 a.m. on the scheduled pickup day. Alternatively, you can transport it to an oversized waste collection center on your own (pre-application needed as well).



How Much Will It Cost?

Different types of items have different disposal fees. Here are some reference examples.

Bicycle: 500 yen
Bed (frame only): 1,000 yen
Dresser (longest side 100 cm or more): 1,500 yen

These Items Will Not Be Accepted!

Televisions, refrigerators, washing machines, computers and other certain household appliances cannot be collected by the city. Please inquire about disposal with the retailer where you purchased the item or call the office below for assistance.



Oversized Garbage Reception Center

0570-200-530 (fixed line phones)
045-330-3953 (cell/IP phones)
045-550-3599 (fax)



When you are unsure about how to put out or separate waste:
Shigen junkan kyoku (Resource and Waste Recycling Bureau),
Naka Ward Office, 045-621-6952



Go for a Visit

Yokohama's Historical Three Towers

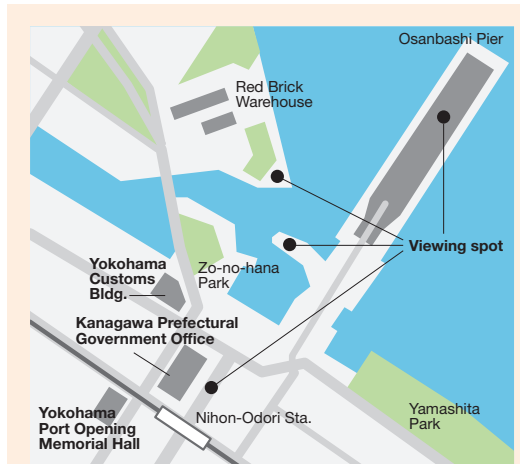
Japan first opened up to the world 160 years ago through Yokohama, and many historical buildings remain standing today. International cruises entering the port are greeted by three landmark towers nicknamed for playing cards. The Kanagawa Prefectural Government headquarters is known as “King”, the Yokohama Customs Building as “Queen”, and the Yokohama Port Opening Memorial Hall as “Jack”.



Kanagawa Prefectural Government Headquarters (King)

The Seicho (ceremonial chamber) has been renovated to its original state and is opened to the public on a limited basis. The tower is once again being lit up at night.

Next viewing opportunity: July 28
Tel: 045-210-2620
See the website for the latest information.



The solid circles (●) are spots where you can see all three towers at once. There is an urban legend that says your wish will be granted if you visit all four of these spots in a single day. Since it's summer, remember to stay well-hydrated on your walk!



Yokohama Port Opening Memorial Hall (Jack)

The corridors and stairs can be entered when the hall is open. The large, beautiful stained glass is a must-see! The auditorium and other normally closed areas are accessible only on a designated date once a month.

Next viewing opportunities:
July 16, August 15,
September 17
Hours: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tel: 045-201-0708
See the website for details.



Yokohama Customs Building (Queen)

Various events are being held here to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the port opening! On days the building is open to the public, you can visit the 7th-floor observation deck. There will also be demonstrations by drug detection dogs and performances by the Yokohama Customs Music Team.

Tel: 045-212-6053
See the website for the latest information.



Thoughts of a Foreign Resident Life and Culture in Japan



When in Japan, Do as the Japanese Do

When you first arrived in Japan, you probably found many things that were done differently from home. I know I did.

Back then, I had already heard that sorting waste was complicated, but the reality surprised me. It took time to get used to the complicated separating system and timetable. Luckily, there was a kind older lady from the neighborhood who taught me how to do things properly. It seems that Japanese exercise some creativity when it comes to garbage. For example, when someone wants to eat fish, they purchase it the day before food scraps are picked up so they won't be bothered by the smell.

Condominium living also has many unspoken rules, such as

doing your laundry and vacuuming at reasonable times, not smoking inside the building or on your balcony, and not leaving things in the corridor. At first, I thought there were too many rules, but I realized that it was consideration for others so everyone could live together comfortably. This year, I was elected a member of the environmental committee for my residents' association, so I hope to contribute to maintaining an ideal living environment. I hope that you will get used to life in Japan as quickly as possible.

(Naka International Lounge, Chinese language staff)



Good to Know! About Japanese Culture



An introduction to seasonal events and Japanese culture in terms of food, clothing and housing.

Nagashi somen (Flowing noodles)

Somen are thin, wheat-based noodles less than 1.3 mm in diameter. Easy-to-eat, they are a Japanese kitchen staple. Come summertime, they can be enjoyed as *nagashi somen*, which is fishing out noodles from water flowing down a piece of split bamboo. It both looks and feels cool and is a great outdoor group activity for families and friends. However, even Japanese do not have many opportunities to enjoy *nagashi somen* since it takes a lot of preparation. If you have a chance to enjoy some, grab it!



We are always looking for locations to distribute Naka Ward Town News. If you have many foreign visitors to your shop, clinic, organization, etc. and would like to make this newsletter available to them, please contact us at 045-224-8123 to arrange delivery.

The next issue will be published on October 1.