

4 Moving

4.1 Renting a home

(1) Apartments and houses

Typically, people use a realtor to search for an apartment or house. This can involve a lot of paperwork, so it is recommended that you go together with someone who understands Japanese. When you sign a contract, you may have to pay a deposit and key money in addition to rent. You may also need a guarantor.



Key money This is money paid to the property owner as a thank-you for renting you the apartment or house. Typically, key money is equal to one or two months' rent.

Deposit This is money entrusted to the property owner for renting you the apartment or house. Typically, a deposit is equal to one to three months' rent. The deposit will be returned to you when you move if the repair costs for your apartment or house are less than the deposit.

Guarantor The guarantor pays the rent instead of the tenant if the tenant does not pay the rent.

(2) Public housing (municipal or prefectural)

Housing Section, Housing Desk 029-273-0111(ext.)6212、6213

Public housing is set up by the city or prefecture for low-income residents. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(Municipal public housing\)](#). For information on prefectural public housing located in Hitachinaka City, refer to the [Ibaraki Prefecture Housing Authority Center website \(Prefectural public housing\)](#) (external link).



(3) Points of caution

- Do not remodel a rented apartment or house. Do not paint or hammer nails into the walls.
- You cannot sublet your rented residence to a third party.
- If you want to live with someone, you need to alert the property owner first.

4.2 Register as a resident

Citizens Section 029-273-0111 (ext.) 1172、1173、1174、1175



If you have moved to a new address, visit the Citizens Section in the main city office or visit the Nakaminato Branch Office to complete the necessary procedures. At this time, you will need to write your new address on your residence card. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(Residence / moving\)](#).

You will also need to complete procedures for your National Health Insurance, national pension, and to transfer to local primary or junior high schools.

| Notification type | When to submit | Necessary items |
|---|---|---|
| ① Moving in from outside Japan | Within 14 days of receiving permission for residence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passport • Residence card or special permanent resident certificate |
| ② Moving in from another municipality | Within 14 days of beginning to reside in Hitachinaka City | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Moving-Out • “My Number” card (Individual Number Card) (Only for those who have) |
| ③ Moving within the city | Within 14 days of beginning to reside at your new address | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence card or special permanent resident certificate • “My Number” card (Individual Number Card) (Only for those who have) |
| ④ Moving out of the city Moving out of Japan | 14 days or less before your scheduled moving date | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence card or special permanent resident certificate |

※Other additional documentation may be needed.

※“My Number” card (Individual Number Card)

“My Number” (Individual Number) is a 12-digit number assigned to all people (including non-Japanese people) who live in Japan with a certificate of residence. One month after your initial residence registration procedures are complete, you will be sent a “My Number” notification by post.

To acquire a “My Number” card, complete the necessary procedures using the application form included with your “My Number” notification.

Your “My Number” card will include a face photo and your address. It can be used as a public piece of personal identification or digital certificate.

For more information, refer to the [city's website \(“My Number” 〈Individual Number〉\)](#).

4.3 Changing schools

Citizens Section

029-273-0111 (ext.) 1172、1173、1174、1175

School Affairs Section

029-273-0111 (ext.) 7325、7326

(1) Procedures for changing primary or junior high schools in Japan

[Changing school districts after moving within the city (Moving)]

① Procedures before moving within the city

- Receive a Certificate of Enrollment and Textbook Certificate (an official list of the textbooks used at the school) from the school that you currently attend.

② Procedures after moving within the city

- Visit the Nakaminato Branch Office or the Citizens Section at the main city office and file a Notification of Change of Address to receive a New School Enrollment Notification. (Refer to “③ Moving within the city” under “4.2 Register as a resident”.)
- Submit your New School Enrollment Notification, Certificate of Enrollment, and Textbook Certificate (an official list of the textbooks used at the school) to the new school that you will be attending.

[Moving from another municipality to Hitachinaka City (Moving in)]

① Procedures before moving to Hitachinaka City

- Complete Moving-Out Notification procedures at a city office in the municipality from which you are moving and receive a Certificate of Moving-Out.
- Receive a Certificate of Enrollment and a Textbook Certificate (an official list of the textbooks used at the school) from the school from which you are moving away.

② Procedures after moving to Hitachinaka City

- Visit the Nakaminato Branch Office or the Citizens Section at the main city office and file a Moving-In Notification to receive a New School Enrollment Notification. (Refer to “② Moving in from another municipality” under “4.2 Register as a resident”.)
- Submit your New School Enrollment Notification, Certificate of Enrollment, and Textbook Certificate (an official list of the textbooks used at the school) to the new school that you will be attending.

[Moving from Hitachinaka City to another municipality (Moving out)]

① Procedures before moving out of Hitachinaka City

- Receive a Certificate of Enrollment and Textbook Certificate (an official list of the textbooks used at the school) from the school that you currently attend.
- Visit the Nakaminato Branch Office or the Citizens Section at the main city office and file a Moving-Out Notification to receive a Certificate of Moving-Out. (Refer to “④ Moving out of the city” under “4.2 Register as a resident”.)

② Procedures after moving out of Hitachinaka City

- Complete Moving-In Notification procedures at a city office in the municipality into which you are moving, and submit your Certificate of Enrollment and Textbook Certificate (an official list of the textbooks used at the school) to the new school that you will be attending.

For more information on these procedures, contact the municipality to which you will be moving and the new school that you will be attending.

(2) Moving to Japan and attending a Japanese primary or junior high school for the first time

① Procedures before moving to Hitachinaka City

- If you previously attended a school outside of Japan, receive a Certificate of Enrollment or similar document that proves attendance at the foreign school. If you attended a Japanese school, also receive a Textbook Certificate (an official list of the textbooks used at the school).

② Procedures after moving to Hitachinaka City

- Visit the Nakaminato Branch Office or the Citizens Section at the main city office and complete Moving-In Notification procedures. (Refer to “① Moving in from outside Japan” under “4.2 Register as a resident”.)
- Explain that you have a child aged 6 to 15 years old and receive a New School Enrollment Notification.
- Submit your New School Enrollment Notification, Certificate of Enrollment, and Textbook Certificate (an official list of the textbooks used at the school) to the new school that you will be attending.

In Japan, non-Japanese individuals are not legally required to attend school, but it is recommended.

4.4 Setting up utilities (electricity)

(1) Procedures

Japanese power companies can be divided into three types: those that create electricity, those that transmit electricity, and those that sell electricity. Power companies that sell electricity are called “electricity retailers”. When you have decided on a place to live, select an electricity retailer that meets your needs and sign a contract with them. If you are renting a house or apartment, you may not be at liberty to choose your power company. Consult with the property owner or management company beforehand.



There is a list of names of registered electricity retailers on the website. Use this list to learn about companies selling power in Hitachinaka City. For more information, refer to the [METI Agency for Natural Resources and Energy website \(List of registered electricity retailers\)](#) (external link).

[Signing a contract]

① Choose your electricity retailer.

② Read the contract.

Electricity usage fees, contract term, cancellation fees, etc.

③ Choose the power company that will create the electricity you use and a reasonably priced rate plan.

[Changing electricity retailers]

Tell the electricity retailer to which you want to switch the name of the power company with which you are currently contracted. Also convey the following information from your Meter Reading Card.

- Identification number
- Supply identification number
- Desired date of switchover

For more information, refer to the [METI Agency for Natural Resources and Energy website \(How do I change power companies?\)](#) (external link).

Once you have signed a contract, you can proceed to the next step.

① Turn on the breaker.

② Turn on the ground fault interrupter.

③ Turn on the molded case circuit breaker.

(2) Electronic products

Electric power in Ibaraki Prefecture is 100V and 50 Hz. It's 60 Hz in western Japan, so some electronic products may need to be adjusted after you move. Note that you may not be able to use some foreign electronic products that are 200V or similar.

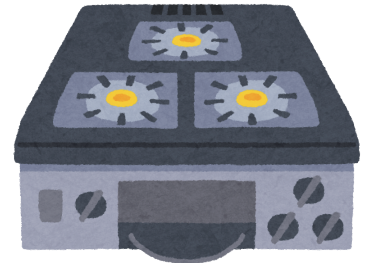
(3) How to pay your electricity bill

Pay your bill (which is sent to you) at a bank, post office, or convenience store by the indicated payment deadline. You can also set up automatic payments directly from your bank account or post office account.

4.5 Setting up utilities (gas)

(1) Procedures

There are different types of gas available based on where you live. The type of gas you use is written on your inspection paper. If you call the gas company, they will send someone to your house to turn on the gas at the main and inspect your appliances.



For information on propane gas supplier, [refer to the Ibaraki Prefectural High Pressure Gas Safety Association website \(List of LP gas dealers\)](#) (external link).

(2) Using appliances

Use the right appliances for your type of gas. Using the wrong appliance for your gas type may result in incomplete combustion and is extremely dangerous.

(3) Safety check

Note the following when using the gas utilities.

- Visually confirm the ignition and extinguishing of the flame.
- Ensure that you ventilate.

(4) How to pay your gas bill

Pay your bill (which is sent to you) at a bank, post office, or convenience store by the indicated payment deadline. You can also set up automatic payments directly from your bank account or post office account.

4.6 Setting up utilities (water and sewerage)

Hitachinaka Life, Culture, and Sports
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation,
Urban Services Section

029-274-1177



(1) Procedures

To turn on the water supply, complete the necessary procedures at the Hitachinaka Life, Culture, and Sports Public Interest Incorporated Foundation, Urban Services Section. You also need to complete certain procedures when you move, when the user of the water services changes, or when you will not be using the water services for an extended period.

For more information, refer to the [city's website \(Activating and deactivating water service\)](#).

(2) How to pay your water bill

Water bills cover two-month periods. Pay your bill (which is sent to you) at a bank, post office, or convenience store by the indicated payment deadline. You can also set up automatic payments directly from your bank account or post office account. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(Billing information\)](#).

(3) Water leaks, etc.

Contact the property owner if you have a water leak as a renter living in an apartment or house. If you own the house, contact the building contractor or [Hitachinaka City-designated plumbing contractor](#). If your sewage line is clogged or you have other problems, contact a [Hitachinaka City-approved drainage repairer and installation company](#).

4.7 Waste that is rendered unnecessary by a move

Waste Management Section 029-273-0111 (ext.) 3324、3325、3326

You are responsible for taking any burnable garbage that is 50 cm or longer on any one side to the Hitachinaka Tokai Clean Center by yourself. You are also responsible for taking any non-burnable garbage or recyclable garbage to a recycling center by yourself. For bulky garbage that you cannot carry yourself, call the Waste Management Section and apply to have a contractor come pick up your garbage at your home. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(For large volumes of garbage from moving, etc. <How to throw out bulky garbage>\)](#).

Items that will not be picked up include TVs, air conditioners, refrigerators, and washing machines. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(How to dispose of TVs, air conditioners, refrigerators, and washing machines\)](#).

4.8 Other procedures

(1) Phone company

Inform your phone company that you have moved.

(2) Post office

If you inform the post office that you have moved, your mail will be forwarded to your new address for a period of one year. You can also apply for this service on the internet and via mobile phone.

(3) Banking

Inform all of the banks at which you have accounts that you have moved. You can also do this on the internet and via post.

(4) Driver's license

After you move, change your address at the police station or a testing center for driving tests near your new home. You will need documentation that proves your new address.