

5 Living

5.1 Community associations

Civic Activities Section 029-273-0111 (ext.) 3222、3223、3224

Community associations are community organizations for residents in various regions of Hitachinaka City. Through community associations, residents work to help each other through community clean-up, collection of recyclable materials, anti-crime activities, and watching over children and the elderly. There are also events such as festivals and athletic meets. By all means, feel free to join a community association.



[If you join a community association...]

- ① You will receive some notifications from the City via community associations.
- ② You can interact with other people in the community and help each other out in emergencies.
- ③ You will be required to pay community association fees and other costs.

[To build good relationships with your neighbors...]

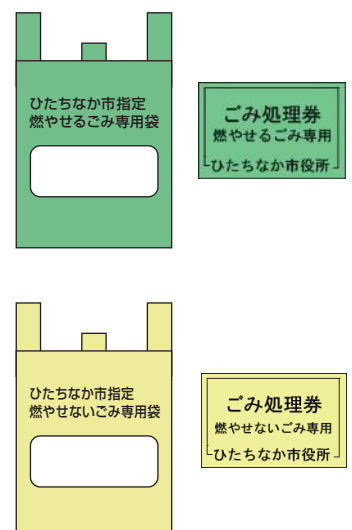
- ① Do not play loud music or talk in a loud voice.
- ② Sort your garbage and put it out for pick-up on the designated day, at the designated time, and at the designated place.
- ③ Park your bicycle or vehicle at the designated place.

5.2 How to dispose of your garbage

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



Refer to Hitachinaka City's "Our Proper Home Garbage Disposal Guide" for more information on how to sort and dispose of burnable, non-burnable, recyclable, and bulky garbage, as well as garbage that cannot be disposed in the city. To acquire this guide, visit the Waste Management Section or download the PDF version from the [city's website \(Non-Japanese / How to dispose of your garbage\)](#). For more information, refer to the [city's website \(How to dispose of your garbage\)](#). For information on when to take out the garbage in the area in which you live, refer to the [city's website \(Garbage and recycling collection table\)](#).



5.3 If there are changes to your family composition

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



(1) When a baby is born

[Procedures in Hitachinaka City]

If your baby is born in Japan, you must visit the Nakaminato Branch Office or the Citizens Section at the main city office and submit a Registration of Birth within 14 days of the birth. If the baby's parents are both non-Japanese, then the baby cannot acquire Japanese citizenship even if he or she is born in Japan.

Who should submit the registration

The baby's father or mother

Necessary items

Registration of Birth (birth certificate created by a doctor), father's and mother's passports, proof of father and mother's marriage, Japanese translation of the proof of marriage, maternal and child health handbook, etc.)

[Other procedures]

- Notify your country's embassy or consulate that the baby was born and complete the necessary procedures.
- Visit the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau Mito Branch Office and complete procedures for the baby's residence card within 30 days of the birth.

■ Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau, Mito Branch Office

1-1 Kitami-cho, Mito City, Ibaraki Prefecture 310-8540 Phone 029-300-3601

(2) When a family member or someone living with you passes away

[Procedures in Hitachinaka City]

If a family member or someone living with you passes away in Japan, you must visit the Nakaminato Branch Office or the Citizens Section at the main city office and submit a Notification of Death within seven days of learning of the death. For cremations, visit the Nakaminato Branch Office or the Citizens Section at the main city office as soon as possible and complete cremation-related procedures.

Who should submit the registration

Family member or someone living with you, etc.

Necessary items

Notification of Death (death certificate created by a doctor), passports of the deceased and the notifying party, the notifying party's personal seal, proof of the relationship between the deceased and the notifying party, etc.

If burying the remains in Japan, you must complete cemetery-related procedures. Contact the Environment Preservation Section.

Environment Preservation Section 029-273-0111 (ext.) 3312, 3313

[Other procedures]

- Notify your country's embassy or consulate that your family member or someone living with you has passed away and complete the necessary procedures.
- Visit the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau Mito Branch Office to return the deceased's residence card within 14 days of the death.
- If necessary, visit the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau Mito Branch Office and complete procedures to change status of residence, etc.

(3) Getting married

[Procedures in Hitachinaka City]

To get married in Japan, you must visit the Nakaminato Branch Office or the Citizens Section at the main city office and submit a Registration of Marriage together with other necessary proof. You will require different kinds of proof depending on your nationality and marriage history. Before gathering the necessary proof on your own, confirm which types of proof are necessary with the Citizens Section at the main city office. It may take some time to gather all of the required proof.



Necessary items

Registration of Marriage, birth certificate, certificate of marriage eligibility, passport, Japanese translations of certificates, etc.

[Other procedures]

Even if a Registration of Marriage is submitted to a Japanese city office, the marriage may not be recognized by the country of which the husband or wife is a citizen. It may be necessary to register your marriage with your home country after getting married in Japan. If the parties getting married are citizens of the same country, you may be able to get married at your embassy or consulate. For more information, contact your embassy or consulate.

If necessary, visit the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau Mito Branch Office and complete procedures to change status of residence, etc.

(4) Getting divorced

[Procedures in Hitachinaka City]

To get divorced in Japan, you must visit the Nakaminato Branch Office or the Citizens Section at the main city office and submit a Notification of Divorce together with other necessary proof. You will require different kinds of proof depending on the nationality of the husband/wife and the necessity of a trial. Before gathering the necessary proof on your own, confirm which types of proof are necessary with the Citizens Section at the main city office. It may take some time to gather all of the required proof.

Necessary items

Notification of Divorce, passport, proof of marriage, Japanese translations of such proof, certificate of residence (only necessary if the husband or wife is Japanese), etc.

[Other procedures]

Even if a Notification of Divorce is submitted to a Japanese city office, the divorce may not be recognized by the country of which the husband or wife is a citizen. It may be necessary to register your divorce with your home country after getting divorced in Japan. For more information, contact your embassy or consulate.

If necessary, visit the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau Mito Branch Office and complete procedures to change status of residence, etc.

5.4 Personal seal

In Japan, personal seals are used instead of signatures in a variety of situations. Personal seals are known in Japanese as a hanko or inkan. There are typically three types of seals used for different purposes, but it is also possible to use the same seal for all purposes.



(1) Unregistered seal (mitome-in)

The unregistered seal is for personal use. It is used when receiving deliveries, signing unimportant day-to-day documents, etc.

(2) Bank seal (ginko-in)

The bank seal is used for business conducted with a bank.

- For example, this seal is used to open a bank account and to withdraw money at teller's window.

It is also used for registering changes in your name, address, bank branch, etc.

- Some banks and online banks do not require a bank seal.

(3) Registered seal (jitsu-in)

Citizens Section	029-273-0111 (ext.) 1172、1173、1174、1175
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The registered seal is your officially recognized seal that is registered with the city office.

- The process of registering your seal with the city office is called inkan-toroku (seal registration). Anyone who is at least 15 years old and a registered resident of Hitachinaka City can register their seal. To register your seal, bring your seal and your residence card or other photo identification to the Nakaminato Branch or the Citizens Section at the main city office.
- Once the seal registration process is complete, you can be issued a Seal Registration Card (inkan toroku-sho).
- If you would like to receive a Seal Certificate (inkan toroku shomeisho), you will need a Seal Registration Card (inkan toroku-sho).
- When signing an important contract in Japan such as when buying land, a house, or an automobile, you will need your registered seal and a Seal Certificate.

For more information, refer to the [city's website \(Seal registration\)](#).

※ You may not be able to register some types of seals. For more information, inquire about this topic before having your seal made.

5.5 Banking

After you open a bank account, you can deposit or withdraw money, transfer money, or set up automatic payments for public utilities. Banks are typically closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays. ATMs are machines used to make deposits to and withdraw money from your bank account. ATMs can also be used at night or on bank holidays, although the specifics differ among banks and stores.



[Opening a bank account]

To open a bank account, you will need personal identification (e.g. passport or residence card) and your personal seal. At the same time, you can create an ATM card (cash card) for use at ATMs. You can also use ATMs located in convenience stores, train stations, and elsewhere.

[International money transfers]

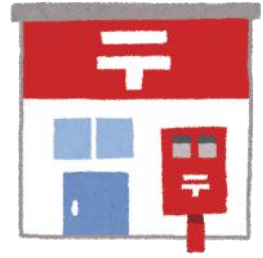
Receive a foreign remittance request form at your bank. Fill in the recipient's address, name, bank name, and account number to request an international money transfer. Ask the bank about service charges, how much time the transfer will take, and what documentation is needed. You can also make a transfer online, without physically going to a bank.

5.6 Post office

Post offices are indicated by their signs featuring the “〒” symbol.

(1) Postal service

To send letters or postcards within Japan, put a postal stamp on the item to be mailed and put it into a mailbox or take it directly to the post office. Postcards and postage stamps are sold at post offices and convenience stores.



There are several ways of sending a letter or package overseas. From quickest to slowest, these include: Express Mail Service (EMS), Airmail, Surface Air Lifted(SAL), and Surface Mail.

On the Japan Post website, you can look up postal fees, delivery times, postal codes, and other postal service-related information. For more information, refer to the Japan Post website.

(Japanese) <https://www.post.japanpost.jp/index.html>

(English) https://www.post.japanpost.jp/index_en.html

■ Customer Service Center (English)

0570-046-111 (Charges apply for calls)

(2) Japan Post Bank

After you open a bank account at the post office, you can deposit money, withdraw money, and use ATMs, just as you would at any bank. Post offices are located throughout Japan, making this bank very convenient with many branches.

[Opening an account at Japan Post Bank]

To open a bank account, you will need personal identification (e.g. passport or residence card) and your personal seal, etc. For more information, refer to the [Japan Post Bank website \(To foreign nationals applying to open an account\)](#) (external link).

[International money transfers]

You can transfer money overseas just as you would at any bank. For more information, refer to the [Japan Post Bank website \(International Remittances\)](#) (external link).

5.7 Driving an automobile or motorcycle

In Japan, automobiles and motorcycles drive on the left side of the road, while pedestrians walk on the right side. There are many traffic accidents in Japan because Japanese roads are narrow despite having many vehicles and pedestrians. Pedestrians must obey traffic rules to ensure that they do not cause accidents.



You must have a driver's license to drive an automobile or motorcycle in Japan. Even if you have a foreign driver's license, you may not be able to drive in Japan.

(1) Driver's license acquired in a foreign country

[Driving using an international driver's license]

If you have an international driver's license, you can drive in Japan for a limited period of time. This period is either one year after your arrival in Japan or until your license expires, whichever is earlier. Note that you generally cannot drive in Japan if you acquired a new international driver's license while spending less than three months outside of Japan. International driver's licenses issued in countries including China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Brazil are not recognized in Japan, and holders of such licenses cannot drive in Japan. For more information, refer to the [National Police Agency website \(If you have a foreign driver's license\)](#) (external link).

[Driving using a foreign driver's license]

If your driver's license was issued in Estonia, Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, Monaco, or Taiwan, you can drive in Japan for a limited period of time. However, you will need a Japanese language translation of your license. The period of validity for such foreign driver's licenses is the same as for international driver's licenses. For more information, refer to the [National Police Agency website \(If you have a foreign driver's license\)](#) (external link).

(2) Japanese driver's license

[Acquiring a Japanese driver's license]

You can acquire a Japanese driver's license by passing the necessary tests at a Driver's License Center. For more information, refer to the [National Police Agency website \(If you have a foreign driver's license\)](#) (external link).

[Converting a foreign driver's license into a Japanese driver's license]

If your current foreign driver's license is still valid, you can convert it into a Japanese driver's license. However, you must have spent a total of at least three months in that country after acquiring the foreign driver's license. You can complete procedures to convert your driver's license at the Ibaraki Prefecture Driver's License Center. For more information, refer to the [Ibaraki Prefectural Police website \(Information on transferring a driver's license from outside Japan to a Japanese license\)](#) (external link). After checking this document, contact the Ibaraki Prefecture Driver's License Center (029-293-8811) regarding whether you can convert your license.

(3) Driver's license renewals and expiration

Your driver's license must be periodically renewed or it will expire. You will be sent a "Driver's License Renewal Reminder" postcard when it is almost time to renew your license. Renew your license by the expiration date at a designated Driver's License Center or police station. If you forget to renew your license, your license will be rendered void and you will have to take the licensing test again.

(4) Owning an automobile or motorcycle

Visit the Ibaraki Transport Branch Office to complete the necessary procedures for buying, transferring, or disposing of an automobile or motorcycle, or if your address changes. In some cases, the vendor who sells you the vehicle may complete the procedures for you.

After buying a vehicle and securing a parking spot, visit the police station to receive a Garage Registration.

If you transfer a vehicle to someone else without changing the name registered to the vehicle and the new owner gets in an accident, you may need to take responsibility for the accident.

If you have an automobile or a motorcycle over 250cc, you will need to receive a regular safety inspection (sha-ken). You will receive an inspection certificate (sha-ken-sho) that must be placed in your vehicle.

※If you have a motorcycle with engine displacement over 125cc, you will need to register your vehicle with the Ibaraki Transport Branch Office and receive a license plate. If you have a 125cc or less moped or engine-equipped bicycle, visit the Nakaminato Branch Office or the Municipal Tax Section at the main city office and complete registration procedures.

5.8 Riding a bicycle

In Japan, bicycles are required to drive on the left side of the road. It is illegal to drive after drinking alcohol, to ride two people on a bicycle, or to ride while using an umbrella or mobile phone. You can also put your child on the bicycle if you have a child seat that meets the required standards. Have the child wear a helmet if he or she is under 13 years of age.

(1) Bicycle theft prevention registration

There is a theft prevention registration system in place for bicycles. You can complete registration procedures at the store where you purchased the bicycle.



(2) Bicycle parking

Community Safety Section 029-273-0111 (ext.) 3211, 3212

[Bicycle parking around Katsuta Station (fee required)]

These parking spaces can be used temporarily or on a regular basis. You do not have to pay if you use a parking space for an hour or less. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(Municipal bicycle parking <automobiles/bicycles>\)](#).

[No parking zones]

You cannot leave your bicycle in a no parking zone. If you do leave your bicycle in such an area, it will be taken away and impounded. Most no parking zones are around train stations. Even if you will only be parking your bicycle for a short time, use a bicycle parking space.

[Retrieving an impounded bicycle]

If your bicycle has been taken away and impounded, you can retrieve it from the Municipal Katsuta Station West Exit Bicycle Parking Space. You will be charged a fee to retrieve your bicycle. You will also need your personal seal, the bicycle key, and a form of personal identification such as your residence card or driver's license. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(Do not leave your bicycle around the train station\)](#).

5.9 Riding the Smile Aozora Bus

Planning and
Coordination Division

029-273-0111 (ext.) 1311, 1312



The Smile Aozora Bus is the bus line for transportation around the city. Anyone can use this bus (except during New Year's holidays). The fare is 100 yen per trip for every rider of primary school age or older.

For more information on all routes and bus times, refer to the [city's website \(Smile Aozora Bus\)](#).