

## Waste and Recyclables

The following applies to the disposal of household-generated waste only. Business waste is governed by separate rules.

■ Contact : Clean Center, Phone 7187-0015

ごみの出し方  
gomi no dashikata

### **How to Sort Out and Dispose of Garbage**

Each city has its own rules on sorting garbage.

Be sure to follow the Abiko Directive, which classifies waste into;

- ① Household garbage
- ② Recyclables
- ③ Bulky waste
- ④ Miscellaneous
- ⑤ Waste not collected by the city

These garbage, other than ⑤ above, are placed at the specified spots by the residents based on the local rules, and collected by the city.

Refer to brochures provided by Clean Center for details.



# Household Garbage

— Unrecyclable waste from general households —



家庭ごみ  
katei gomi

**Items** Kitchen garbage (drain off water, please), waste paper (recyclable paper goes into "recyclable waste type 1"), tree branches or flower (smaller than 50cm by 10cm, put in a bag or tie with a string), leather, rubber, stuffed dolls, cushions, pillows, down & feather comforters (duvets), video-tapes, cling film, toothpaste tubes, wasabi tubes, disposal lighters, plastic washbowls, plastic buckets, plastic tanks, pet's litter boxes, paper diapers (nappies), etc.

**Attention** Do not use carton boxes to put garbage in. To dispose of a large amount of waste at one time, take them to Clean Center by yourself or ask an authorized collector. Cleaned out wasabi tubes and mayonnaise tubes go into "recyclable waste type 1".

**Spot** Leave your waste at the specified spot by 8 : 30am on the specified collection days. Ask your neighbor about your spot.

**Preparation** Put garbage into see-through plastic bags or shopping plastic bags with your name on them (dark-colored bags not permitted).

**Collection Days** Twice a week. Days vary with the collection blocks. See the table on page 27. No collection during Yearend/New Year period.

**Carry-in to Clean Center** Clean Center accepts carried-in waste, Monday through Friday, 8 : 30am to 11 : 30am and 1 : 00pm to 4 : 00pm (to 3 : 00pm on holidays)

**Charge** Free of charge for household garbage (garbage from business activities costs ¥15/kg, and must always be taken to Clean Center by the person concerned).

**Subsidy** The city subsidizes residents who purchase composters or garbage processing machines to reduce and turn kitchen garbage into useful resources.



## Recyclable Waste Type 1

— Recyclable materials collected without specified bags of Clean Center —

- Items**
- ① Plastics other than PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles, polystyrene foam materials
  - ② Old paper (corrugated cardboards, newspapers, magazines, milk cartons, etc.)
  - ③ Textiles (clothes, underwears, comforters(duvets), blankets, cushions, etc.)
  - ④ Metals
  - ⑤ Bicycles



**Attention** Stuffed dolls, polyurethane foam, carpets cut into smaller than 50cm squares, down or feather comforters(duvets), and floor cushions go into "household garbage". Paper with metal parts goes into "miscellaneous" and aluminum-foil coated paper goes into "household garbage". An item containing metals more than 50 % goes into "recyclable waste type 1", even if its length exceeds 1 meter.

**Spot** Leave recyclables at the specified spot by 8 : 30am on specified collection days.

**Preparation** Depends on the item.

- Plastics (other than PET bottles) and polystyrene foam products should be cleaned. Put them in see-through plastic bags or shopping plastic bags, except large ones.
- Paper should be sorted into corrugated cardboards, newspapers, magazines, milk cartons (cut open, wash out, and dry) and others. Each group should be tied with a string.
- Textiles (bedclothes and clothes, etc.) should be tied with a string. Do not put them out on rainy days.
- Small metal pieces should be put in see-through bags. No packing needed for large metal items.
- Attach a piece of paper written "no need" onto a bicycle.

**Collection Days** Once a week

**Carry-in to Clean Center** Clean Center accepts carried-in recyclables, Monday through Friday, 8 : 30am to 11 : 30am and 1 : 00pm to 4 : 00pm (to 3 : 00pm on holidays)

**Charge** Free of charge

"No need" onto a bicycle



# Recyclable Waste Type 2

資源 2  
shigen 2

— Used materials which are recyclable and placed in the specified bags of Clean Center —

**Items** Glass bottles, cans, PET bottles, batteries, fluorescent lamps, and cooking oil.

**Attention** Broken glass, cosmetics bottles, heat-resistant glass, cups, chinaware, light bulbs, ash-trays, and sheet glass go into "miscellaneous".

**Spot** Put items in the specified bags or containers according to their type, and set them out at the specified spot by 8 : 30am on the specified collection days.

**Preparation** Glass bottles - Remove caps, rinse, and sort them by color (transparent, brown, and the other).

Cans - Remove all contents. Finish up spray cans. You do not have to puncture spray cans since it could be dangerous.

PET bottles - Remove caps and labels, and rinse them out (caps and labels go into "recyclable waste type 1").

Batteries - Mercury thermometers, dry cell batteries, and button batteries (rechargeable batteries must be taken back to the shops which sell them).

Fluorescent lamps : Fluorescent lamps go into "recyclable waste type 2", but light bulbs go into "miscellaneous" as they contain no mercury.

Cooking oil - Remove all food pieces from cooking oil.



**Collection Day** Once every other week

**Carry-in to Clean Center** Clean Center accepts carried-in recyclables, Monday through Friday, 8 : 30am to 11 : 30am and 1 : 00pm to 4 : 00pm (to 3 : 00pm on holidays)

**Charge** Free of charge



## Bulky Waste

— Items designated by the city, or anything 1 meter or longer —

**Items** Furniture, large electric appliances, wooden partitions (like doors), musical instruments, sporting goods, beds, and carpets.



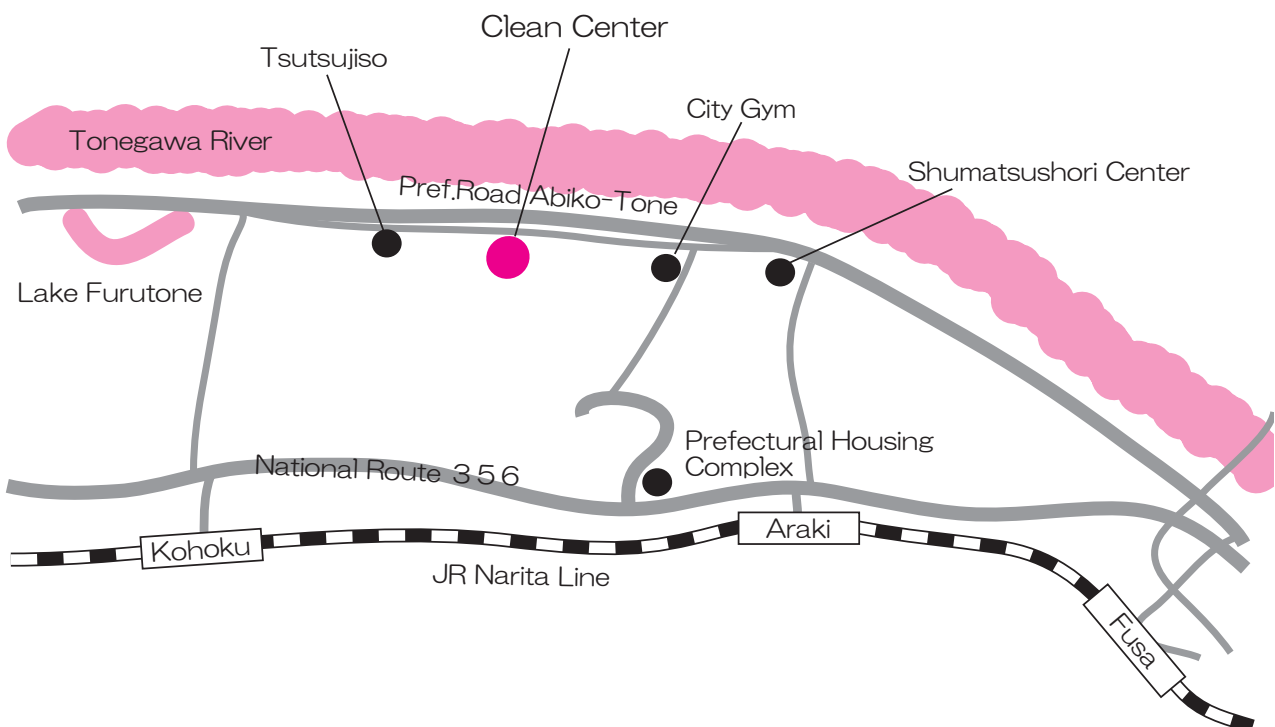
**Attention** A set of some goods is counted as one item in calculating collection charge. Request Clean Center for collection, and explain the detail. A carpet as a whole is "bulky waste", but cut pieces smaller than 50 cm square are "household garbage".

**Preparation** Contact Bulky Waste Desk at Clean Center by phone (7181-5374). For one request, up to three items are taken care of. Requests are accepted Monday through Friday 8 : 30am to 5 : 00pm, except holidays and Yearend/Newyear holidays. Buy stickers ¥700 per piece at a designated store, write your name on the stickers, and attach them on each waste item. Place the items beside your door on the appointed day (if you live in a condominium, put them out near the entrance on the ground floor).

**Collection Days** When you inform Clean Center of the type and the number of items, they will tell you when the bulky waste will be picked up.

**Carry-in to Clean Center** Clean Center accepts carried-in bulky waste, Monday through Friday, 8 : 30am to 11 : 30am and 1 : 00pm to 4 : 00pm (to 3 : 00pm on holidays).

**Charge** ¥700 per item. Free of charge if delivered by yourself to Clean Center.



# Miscellaneous Garbage

雑芥ごみ  
zakkai gomi

— Waste other than the previous 4 types, and placed in the specified bags of Clean Center —

**Items** Things with metal part less than 50%, sheet glass, broken glass bottles, cosmetics bottles, chinaware, cups, light bulbs, tea pots, flower pots, eye glasses, flashbulbs, mirrors, flashlights, plum wine (umeshu) bottles, coffee makers, pocket warmers, helmets, vacuum cleaners, cameras, humidifiers, shears, blenders, thermos bottles, desk lamps, foot warmers, shavers, thermometers, fish tanks, radio-cassette recorders, kitchen knives, razors, aluminum foil, child safety seats, rice cookers, lamps and shades, solidified paint, empty paint cans, clocks, watches, hair dryers, traveling bags, electric fans, guitars, clothes bars and poles, mini-component stereo sets, and golf bags.

## Attention

- For sharp objects such as broken glass and blades, wrap them up in thick paper or with packaging tape.
- Spray cans go into "recyclable waste type 2".

**Preparation** Place small things or broken pieces in a plastic bag, before putting them in the specified bag. Use the bag marked "miscellaneous" at the specified spot by 8 : 30am on the specified collection days.

**Collection Days** Once every other week

**Carry-in to Clean Center** Clean Center accepts carried-in waste, Monday through Friday, 8 : 30am to 11 : 30am and 1 : 00pm to 4 : 00pm (to 3 : 00pm on holidays)

**Charge** Free of charge



Clean Center

## Garbage not Collected by the City



— Items stipulated by regulations —

**Items** Electric appliances stipulated in Electric Appliance Recycling Law (refrigerators/freezers, washing machines, air conditioners, and TV sets), personal computers, tatami mats, tires, kerosene/paraffin oil, pianos, paint, toxic chemicals, agricultural chemicals, fire extinguishers, propane gas cylinders, copying machines, safes, building debris, and motor bikes.

**Attention** TV sets, refrigerators/freezers, washing machines, air conditioners and PCs should be disposed of in compliance with regulations.

### Preparation

- The above electric appliances → Ask the retailer from which you are purchasing a replacement, the retailer from which you originally purchased the item, or licensed recyclers to collect it.
- Personal computers → Ask the PC manufacturer. They will mail you an invoice for payment. Pay at a bank, a post office, or a convenience store, then you will receive a *Yupack* sticker by mail. Attach it on the PC. Take the PC to the post office or call the post office for collection.
- Tatami mats and others → Ask the dealer from which you bought the item, or licensed collectors.

**Charge** All items are chargeable. For the electric appliances, refer to the charge table below.

Recycling Cost				
Item	Recycling Fee	Collection Fee	Tax	
4 items applicable to Electric Appliances Recycling Law	Washing machine	2,400yen	Depends on items and distance	5%
	TV set	2,700yen		
	Air conditioner	3,500yen		
	Refrigerator or freezer	4,600yen		
Desktop PC, Laptop PC		3,000yen		
LCD display		3,000yen		
Cathode-ray tube display		4,000yen		



Collection Days by Blocks			
Block	Day*		Name of Block
Block 1	Recyclable	Tuesdays	Nedo (South side of Route 6), Nedo Shinden, 1-4 Daida, 1-3 Funato, 1-899 Abiko (South side of Route 6), 1-3 Honcho, 1-3 Hakusan, Abiko Shinden, 1,2 Midori, Wakamatsu
	Household	Mon, Thu	
Block 2	Recyclable	Wednesdays	Nedo (North side of Route 6), Fuse, Kujike, 1-2 Kujike, 1-7 Tsukushino, Kohokudai Danchi except Block 6
	Household	Mon, Thu	
Block 3	Recyclable	Fridays	5-9 Namiki, Sakae, 1,2 Kotobuki (except 2-choume 13 and 14 bandai), Shiroshita, Saishihara, Shibasaki, 1-5 Shibaskidai, 1000-1702s Abiko, Aoyama, 1-4 Aoyamadai, Minamiaoyama
	Household	Mon, Thu	
Block 4	Recyclable	Thursdays	1780-1800s Abiko, Izumi, 1-6 Tennoudai, 1,2 Higashiabiko, Kounoyama, Kounoyama Shinden, Sageto, Ichibu, Ichibu Shinden, Okahotto, Okahotto Shinden, 1-6, 8-10 Kohokudai, 2-choume 13 and 14 bandai Kotobuki
	Household	Tue, Fri	
Block 5	Recyclable	Mondays	Nakabyo, Nakabyodai, Nakazato, Nakazato Shinden, Furudo, Hibiri, Araki, Arakieki Minamikuiki Seirichi, 1-4 Arakino, Ezochi, Fusa, 1 Fusa, Miyako, Mikawaya Shinden, Osaku Shinden, 1-7 Heiwadai, Shin Shinden, Fusashita Shinden, Aijima Shinden, Sengenmae Shinden, Fusa Torimachi
	Household	Tue, Fri	
Block 6	Recyclable	Wednesdays	Kohokudai Danchi No.1, 2, 4-13, 23-33, 41, 50-60, 69-72, 74-86
	Household	Tue, Fri	

\*Including holidays



Inside of Clean Center

# Tap Water

水道  
suidou

Water is supplied by Waterworks Bureau of Abiko City.

Tap water is drinkable unless otherwise indicated.

**Water Rate** The water rate of Abiko consists of a fixed minimum charge and an additional charge depending on the amount of water used. A meter checker reads your meter once a month and leaves a slip at your post box. This slip shows the amount you used and the corresponding charge. You can pay your fees by either of the following methods : An automatic bank debit; or a cash payment at a bank, a post office, or a convenience store.

**Start** Call the Waterworks Bureau to open the main valve about a week prior to your move-in. Give your address and the day you wish water supply to be started.

**Termination** Call the Waterworks Bureau to discontinue water supply about a week before your move-out, and inform your customer number (printed on the meter slip) or your address and user's name (also printed on the meter slip), the date you want to discontinue water supply, how to pay your outstanding charges, and your new address.

■ Contact : Water Supply Management Section, Phone 7184-0116 (Japanese automated voice only)

**Water Leakage** If you find a water leak in your house, call a designated plumber. You pay repair cost for the portion from the meter box to your water tap. Kindly alert Waterworks Bureau if you find a water leak outside your house.

■ Contact : Water Supply Engineering Section, Phone 7184-0162 (Japanese automated voice only)

**Cloudy Water** Brownish color is mainly caused by rust. Let water run for a while, and water will become clear. Whitish color is caused by numerous air bubbles in water. Leave the water for a while, and bubbles will disappear. If you find anything wrong, like lasting coloring, or an unpleasant smell, call Waterworks Bureau.

■ Contact : Water Supply Engineering Section, Phone 7184-0257 (Japanese automated voice only)

Waterworks Bureau



# Sewage Disposal

下水

汚水処理  
osui shori

Facilities to dispose waste water from your kitchen, bath and toilet are run by Abiko City. There are three types of sewage treatment.

(1) **Kumitori-Shiki Toilet** A “sucking out” type. Human wastes held in an underground tank are removed by a vacuum car. A waste disposal crew visits the house once a month to carry away the wastes to a waste treatment plant. For the service the resident must apply to Citizens Regulation Section or City Hall branch offices.

■ Inquiry : Clean Center, Phone 7188-2547

(2) **Septic Tank** A septic tank is buried in the ground. It holds and treats all waste water from your kitchen, toilet and bath. Septic tanks are used in the areas not served by public sewerage. A septic tank needs cleaning up at least once a year and maintenance a few times a year.

An application is necessary for installing a septic tank : ① when you build a house or remodel it, apply to Housing Section, together with the application for the house building confirmation. ② when you replace kumitori-shiki with a septic tank or renew your septic tank, apply to Higashi-Katsushika Kenmin Center (Prefectural Center), Phone 047-361-4048.

■ Inquiry : Clean Center, Phone 7187-0015

(3) **Public Sewerage** Abiko City has been expanding its public sewerage system for better sanitary environment. Sewerage system consists of pipe lines and sewage treatment plant which turns the sewage into clean water before releasing it to Tonegawa River. If your toilet is either a kumitori-shiki type or a septic tank type, you are urged to switch to a sewerage system if the underground sewerage line is near your house. Ask any authorized plumber.

■ Contact : Sewerage Section, Phone 7185-1498

For the list of authorized plumbers, refer to :

[http://www.city.abiko.chiba.jp/data/html/kouziten\\_abiko.htm](http://www.city.abiko.chiba.jp/data/html/kouziten_abiko.htm)

**Sewage Rate** A sewage rate is based on tap water consumption, and your sewage rate is shown in the water bill. If you use well water, your sewage rate is calculated monthly as follows :  $6 \text{ m}^3 \times$  the number of family members  $\times$  unit price. Report if the number of users changed.

■ Inquiry : Sewerage Section, Phone 7185-1111, Ext.546

**Drain Clogs** Troubles will occur if you use papers other than toilet paper in a flush toilet. Also, do not throw food waste, rags, cooking oil, etc. into the drain. If a drainpipe is clogged up, contact any authorized plumber.

**Sewer Treatment Charge** For any of the three means, i.e., kumitori-shiki, a septic tank or a public sewerage, an annual cost of sewer treatment is about ¥10,000 to ¥30,000 for an average household.

■ Contact : Clean Center, Phone 7187-0015



Two types of gas are available for household use in Abiko, i.e., city gas and propane gas. You should make sure that your appliances fit for the type of gas supplied in your area because it is dangerous to use an inappropriate type.

**Start** (1) City gas - A gas is supplied through underground pipes to each house. City gas in Abiko City is supplied by Higashinohon Gas Corporation. Inform them of your address and the date of start. A service person will come to your house, check your gas appliances and a gas leak, and open the main valve in your presence.

(2) Propane gas (LPG) - A gas is supplied in a cylinder. Find out a propane gas dealer around your house.

**Discontinuation** If you want to discontinue the gas supply, also call the gas company.

**Gas Rate** The gas rate consists of a fixed minimum charge and an additional charge depending on the amount of gas used. A meter checker reads your meter once a month and leaves a slip at your post box. This slip shows the amount you used and the corresponding charge. You can pay your fees by any of the following methods : (1) an automatic bank debit, (2) a cash payment at a bank, a post office, or a convenience store, (3) a cash payment to gas company staff coming to your door. For further information, call the gas company. A gas bill is about a few thousand yen a month for an average household.

**Gas Leakage** A distinctive odor is added to gas in Japan, which will alert you to a gas leak immediately. If you smell a gas, turn off the gas appliance, close the main valve, and open windows and doors for ventilation. City gas, lighter than air, dissipates in the air. Propane gas, heavier than air, tends to remain at a lower level and behind furniture. As a gas is highly flammable, never smoke or switch on a fan or any electric appliance. Even a spark might cause an explosion. If you notice anything wrong with a gas, call the gas company at any time, nighttime or holidays.

**Periodical Inspections** The gas company conducts regular inspections on gas appliances and a gas leak. For city gas, once in 40 months. For propane gas, once in 48 months. Both are free of charge.

■ Contact : For city gas, Higashinohon Gas Corporation, Phone 0120-823-880. For propane gas, any propane gas dealer in your area.



# Electricity

電気

電気  
denki

Electricity in Abiko is supplied by Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO).

**Start** Push up the circuit breaker. Fill out the application postcard addressed to TEPCO which you will find near the circuit breaker or the mailbox, and post it.

**Discontinuation** Call TEPCO for termination of electricity supply.

**Voltage and frequency** In east Japan, to which Abiko belongs, 100 Volts and 50 Herz. In west Japan, 100 Volts and 60 Hertz. Please ensure that your electric appliances are compatible with this standard.

**Power Failure** When power fails, check the power breaker first. Power is automatically cut off with the tripping of power breaker when total amount of electricity you are using exceeds the level set by the contract with the power company. Switch off some of the appliances to reduce the load on the circuit, then push up the breaker switch. If you want more power, apply to either TEPCO or electric shops to change the contract. Your rate will go up a little.

**Electricity Rate** The electricity rate consists of a fixed minimum charge and an additional charge depending on the amount of electricity used. A meter checker reads your meter once a month and leaves a slip at your post box. This slip shows the electricity amount you consumed and the corresponding charge. You can pay your fees by an automatic bank debit or a cash payment at a bank, a post office, or a convenience store. An average electricity bill is about a few thousand yen a month for an average household.

■ Contact : Chiba Second Customer Center, Tokyo Denryoku Inc. (TEPCO). For moving in and out or contract change : Phone 0120-99-5555. For power failure or rate : Phone 0120-99-5556.

# Motor Vehicles

車

車  
kuruma

**Driver's License** In order to drive in Japan, it is mandatory to have an international driver's license or to obtain a Japanese driver's license. For those who come from countries signatory to the Geneva Convention on The Road Traffic, the validity of a particular international driver's license brought into Japan is shorter of either (1) valid time of that license or (2) one year from the date of entry in Japan.

**Note** In the case you are registered in the Basic Resident Register or in the Alien Registration and reentered Japan within 3 months after having left Japan, the date of return to Japan does not determine the validity of your international driver's license. If you drive beyond this period, you need a Japanese driver's license.

■ Contact : Chiba Prefectural Driver's License Center, Phone 043-274-2000.

**Motor Vehicle Registration and Inspection** When you buy or scrap a car, you must register and pay relevant taxes. The owner of a car or a motorcycle (over 250cc) is required by law to have a periodic inspection and to attach the motor vehicle inspection certificate to the wind-shield or the car body.

■ Contact : Noda Office for Motor Vehicle Inspection and Registration, Chiba Local Land Transport Office : 207-22 Kamisangao, Noda City, Phone 04-7121-0111, Noda Office for Light Motor Vehicle Inspection and Registration, Office : 207-26 Kamisangao, Noda City, Phone 04-7120-2212

**Insurance** Those who drive a car in Japan have to be insured against possible traffic accidents.

■ Contact : Any private car insurance companies

# City Housing

市営住宅  
shiei juutaku

Abiko City lends some housing complexes at a rent lower than the market price.

**Eligibility** For those who fulfill all of the following 5 conditions. 1. Either you live or work in Abiko. 2. You are in need of a residence. 3. You do not fall behind with your city tax payment. 4. You have or plan to have family member(s) living with you. (A single person is accepted if she/he is 50 years old or older.) 5. Your income is under the designated ceiling.

**List of City Housing** Abiko City now owns 8 housing complexes (with 319 units). The city announces vacancy one or two times a year. Refer to the Abiko Newsletter for information on vacancy.

City Houses				
Name	House	Room	Address	Parking lot (chargeable)
Sakae	16	3DK	9-17 Sakae	X
Kogure	18	2DK	537-1 Kounoyama	○
	72	3DK		
Higashiabiko A	24	3DK	1-9 Higashiabiko	X
Higashiabiko B	36	3DK	1-31 Higashiabiko	○
Ichibu	8	2K	69 Ichibu	X
	16	2DK		
Negoya	54	3DK	2998 Nakabyou	○
Hibiri	40	3K	132 Hibiri	X
Kitahara	12	2DK	2-3-9 Arakino	○
	23	3DK		

■ Contact : Public Facility Construction Section, Phone 7185-1734

Chiba Prefecture also owns 4 housing complexes in Abiko City.

■ Contact : Advertising Section, Prefectural Housing Maintenance Development, City Development Corporation of Chiba Prefecture, Phone 043-222-9200



Higashiabiko A

# Employment

**Visa Status** Foreign nationals eligible for employment in Japan according to their visa status are free to seek employment.

■ Contact : Matsudo Public Employment Security Office (Hello Work)

Location : 3rd floor of Matsudo Bldg 1307-1 Matsudo, Matsudo City, Phone 047-367-8609

**Labor Laws** Discrimination against workers based on their nationality, belief, etc. is prohibited. Japanese labor laws are applicable to all people working in Japan. Report it to Chiba Labor Bureau if you are maltreated when you have a work-related injury or illness.

■ Contact : Chiba Labor Bureau, Phone 043-221-4311

**City Staff Recruiting** Foreign nationals are eligible for most Abiko city staff positions.

■ Contact : General Affairs Section, Phone 7185-1111, Ext.232

# Residents' Associations

Generally every community has a neighbor's group called a resident's association (*Jichikai*) or a neighborhood association (*Chounaikai*).

Jichikai or Chounaikai passes around circulars (information or notice from the city office, police, or local communities) to every household and conducts local activities like mini events (festivals, sports, dances, etc.), security patrols, fire drills, cleaning up in the area, garbage disposal, and so on. A fee will be about a few hundred yen per month depending on the association. Foreign nationals living in the area are welcome to join.

■ Contact : Public Interest Activities Support Section, Phone 7185-1111, Ext.434



Heiwadaï Residents' Association Center

職

職  
shoku

自治会、町内会等

自治会・町内会  
jichikai, chounaikai

There are some important rules and regulations for pet owners. Most apartment houses do not allow to keep pets.

**Dog Registration** Dogs over 91 days old must be registered with Public Health Center within 30 days from the day its owner started keeping it. Dogs younger than 90 days should be registered 30 days after they turn 90 days old. Any changes in registration such as an ownership, an address of the owner, or dog's death, should be reported to Public Health Center immediately.

**Inoculation** All dogs must be inoculated for rabies every year.

**Collar** Your dog must wear a pet tag with your name on it. You are required to attach certificates of dog registration and of the rabies inoculation on your dog's collar.

**Maltreatment of Animals** You must take responsibility for your pet for life. If you abuse or abandon your pet, you shall be penalized.

**Spaying and Neutering** Owners are recommended to make necessary procedures to avoid unwanted reproduction.

**Animal Wastes** You should not let your pet urinate or defecate in any public or private area. Carry a waste disposal kit with you whenever you stroll with your pet. Your pets can be house trained.

**Dog on a Leash** Dogs should not be allowed to run at large. Be sure to keep your dog always leashed even in the park and on a walk.

■ Contact : Public Health Center, Phone 7187-1131

**Pet's Death** Call Clean Center for the body to be cremated and buried. Ashes will not be handed over to you. The fee is 6,300yen.

**Animal Corps** Please inform Clean Center for removal of dead stray animals. There is no fee required.

■ Contact : Clean Center, Phone 7187-0015

