

Municipal offices will send a notification card to your registered address. After you receive it:

-Store the card in a safe place.

-Do not tell the number or show the card to others. However, when required, you must provide your number to your employer or municipal offices.

Your individual number is valid for a lifetime, so please do not share your number with anyone and be careful not to lose any documents with your number on it.

Please access to the link for more detailed information about the Individual Number.

<https://www.kojinbango-card.go.jp/en/index.html>

## 2-6 Furnishing an apartment

First of all, it is important to know that most accommodations in Japan will come unfurnished. Even if there is already a small kitchen unit in most apartments, you may need to buy everything from light bulbs and curtains to your own desk, chair and bed. Furnishing an apartment can be difficult at first for this reason, especially for those coming to Japan for the first time. Moreover, most of the online shops (like Amazon, Nitori, etc.) are either only available in Japanese or only accept credit cards for payments if you buy furniture.

Please refer to the following list of places to find furniture, from budget to higher-priced, for your new Japanese home.

### Furniture Chain Stores

The two biggest furniture retailers in Japan are Swedish IKEA and the Japanese equivalent Nitori (ニトリ). Both sell cheap, quality furniture that you have to assemble yourself as well as bed sheets, pillows, curtains, dishware and more.

- The nearest IKEA store is in Yokohama. You should measure windows, rooms and doorways before going there so you know it will all fit.

<http://www.ikea.com/jp/en/store/kohoku/access>

- There is a Nitori-Saikaya Fujisawa store opened recently right in front of the Fujisawa Station. Also, another Nitori store is located at Totsuka Station by the Yokohama Municipal Subway 'Blue Line' from Shonandai Station.

Go to the second floor of the JR station building (connected to the Totsukana Bldg.), leave the station through the west exit and look for the Saclass building. The Nitori store is located on the second floor of that building.



IKEA Kohoku



Nitori Fujisawa Nitori Totsuka

### Recycle shops – second-hand stores

Japanese second-hand stores are known as “Recycle shops” and can be found in almost every city and are good to buy hefty appliances like fridges, washing machines and microwave ovens. Some will have a sign saying “リサイクル” (Recycle) and there are also franchise recycle shops too like “Hard-off” (primarily electronics and musical instruments) and its sister branch, “Book-off” (books, CDs, DVDs, games).



Treasure Factory Fujisawa

There is a big recycle shop in Fujisawa City (Treasure Factory (トレジャーファクトリー) Kameino 1-14-6 Fujisawa City). To get there, take the Odakyu Enoshima Line from Shonandai Station to Katase Enoshima and get off at Mutsuai-Nichidai-mae Station. Leave the station through the east exit and walk east until you reach Japan National Route 467. Turn left and follow the road until you reach the recycle shop.



Expert Shonandai

There is another recycle shop approximately 10 min on foot from Shonandai Station. Leave the station through exit G and go straight ahead until you reach Shonandai Park. Turn left and follow the road for 450 m. Then you will see the shop on your right side.

Expert Recycle Shop (エキスパート): Fujisawa City Shonandai 6-34-10

### Sayonara sales

Since many foreigners are living in Japan only temporarily, there is a constant flow of 'Sayonara' (goodbye) sales as people look to sell their furniture and other things they do not want before they leave the country. Great resources for affordable furniture are Websites below;

*Craigslist* ( <https://tokyo.craigslist.jp/?lang=en&cc=us> )

*Freecycle* (<https://www.freecycle.org/about/>)

*GaijinPot Classifieds* (<http://classifieds.gaijinpot.com/index/index/category/furniture> )

Besides furniture, you find almost everything on these sites and all explanations are in English. But you have to pick it up yourself or use a delivery service like UPS or Yamato Transport.

(<http://www.kuronekoyamato.co.jp/en/>)

### Daiso / 100 yen stores

If you are looking for dishware, cutlery, cleaning supplies, ergonomic storage solutions, portable shelves or other small household items for a reasonable price (100 yen), you should look for them at a Daiso or other 100 yen stores. There is a Daiso store close to Shonandai Station. Leave the station through exit D, follow the train tracks and turn right at the second corner. Go straight ahead until you find yourself in front of the Daiso store.



Daiso Shonandai

### Outlet Stores

One of the largest Furniture outlet stores in Kanagawa is the MEGAMAX Atsugi store (5-31-1 Tomuro, Atsugi). They offer delivery-service and list various information on their English website:

<https://www.megamax.jp/eng/html/shop/shopag.htm>

### Keio Welcome Net

Keio Welcome Net is a volunteer organization by Keio's alumni that helps international students, researchers, and their families, settle into life in Japan. Besides several cultural events, they host a Mini Bazaar for electronics and household appliances every year in September and November at Hiyoshi International House. If you cannot make it to one of their bazars, you can also contact them and ask for their assistance to go shopping together: <https://sites.google.com/site/welcomenethomepage/>