

4-8 Moving

Like in every other country, moving means a lot of organization. First, you have to decide if you wish to use a moving company or take the challenge to move everything by yourself. When using a company, the cheapest times of the year to move are June, October and November. In contrast, you should try to avoid moving in March, April, July, August and Golden Week, because these are the times when everyone is moving because of company transfers and holidays. Also, some people prefer to move on the weekend so they can unpack before going back to work on Monday. As a result, Fridays and weekends tend to be significantly more expensive and you can get discounts for moving on weekdays. Another way to save money is to move in the afternoon, because a lot of moves finish around 2 or 3 p.m., so if the company can get an extra job in during the day, they will lower the price. Even if it is time-consuming, you should get multiple estimates. If you mention in front of the company's agent that you are getting multiple estimates, companies are likely to take that into account in their quotes. Often you can also get a discount if you are willing to take used boxes.



How to find a moving company

Moving companies in Japan offer all kind of services from full-service movers where a team of professionals will pack and unpack every single item you own, to customer-assisted moves which have an incredible variety of options, so everyone can find a financially friendly way to move ones' belongings to another place. Here are some moving companies which offer service in the Kanto area:

- **Kuroneko Yamato**

This company offers an all-around service in English and has special discounts for single-moving.

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

- **Nittsu (Nippon Express)**

Nittsu is one of the biggest moving companies. They also offer services for international moving.

<http://www.nipponexpress.com/moving/index.html> <http://www.nittsu.co.jp/hikkoshi/>

- **Sakai**

Sadly, they have no English website, but if you get help from a Japanese speaking friend, their service is definitely worth considering.

<http://www.hikkoshi-sakai.co.jp/>

- **Recycle Boy**

Recycle Boy is a domestic moving company headquartered in Yokohama. They provide packing and moving services as well as electrical and cleaning related work. One unique additional service they provide is that they will recycle any of your unwanted belongings as part of the moving service.

<http://www.recycle-boy.com/rboy-english.html>

- **Tokyo Helping Hands**

Tokyo Helping Hands provides moving services within Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chiba, and Saitama prefectures. They can help you move 24 hours a day/7 days a week. They also can deliver bulky items for you if you purchase furniture or other large items that would be difficult to transport yourself. In addition, if you need to dispose of a large item that cannot be thrown in the trash, they provide a disposal service that can take care of this for you.

<http://tokyohelpinghands.com/>

Notifications and changing official registrations

Besides planning the move itself, there are plenty of things you have to take care of before and after your actual moving-date.

1. If you are living in a private apartment, you should give notice to the landlord at least one month prior to moving out depending on your contract. If you fail to contact them early enough, or if you caused major damage to your apartment, the deposit (*shikikin*) you paid may not be refunded.
2. You also have to notify the gas, electric power company and the Waterworks Bureau of the moving-out date and ask the settlement of the account. Depending on the company, they may offer service in English. Please use the information on utility accounts in chapter “2-3 Gas, Water and Electricity” to find the right contact information. The termination process for some utilities may involve a representative coming around, so you may have to arrange a date and time for that. At the same time, you can arrange with the providers to start providing you with utilities at your new place, unless you are moving out of their service area. If so, contact the appropriate providers for your destination and make arrangements.
3. If you have a telephone installed or if you are using internet at home, notify the telephone company you have used of your moving date and ask settlement of the account or if you can get the same service from them at your new place if you wish so.
4. Forward your mail to your new address. Fill out the form (転居届, *tenkyo todoke*) at your local post office or complete it online (https://www.post.japanpost.jp/int/ems/ryugaku/intl_student/index_en.html). Mail will be forwarded for one year.
5. If you need to dispose of oversize garbage, check the information on the disposal of oversized garbage for the city you are living in and apply for their service when needed.
6. When you report your moving out to your municipality, the office will issue you a “Move out Certificate (転出届, *tenshutsu todoke*).” If you move to a different municipality, you are to bring the “Move out Certificate” to your municipal office and report your moving in (転入届, *tennyu todoke*) within 14 days after you have settled in a residence at a new address in the municipality. If you change your address within the same municipality, you must notify your municipality of the change of address. If you leave Japan and live abroad, you must, in principle, report it to your municipality. When you report your moving in or out, please bring either your residence card or special permanent resident certificate (or alien registration certificate).
(http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/jichi_gyousei/c-gyousei/zairyu/english/move-in_move-out.html)
7. Notify Keio University of your new address. Go to the “Update and Confirm Your Address” Section on the Gakuji Web System to complete notification procedure. Bring your Student ID Card to the Academic Affairs Office after your new address has been registered on the Gakuji Web System, so the registration sticker on the back of your student ID card can be updated.
8. After you finish the process at the municipal office, change your address everywhere else it is needed (e.g., driver's license, mobile phone contract, bank accounts, and credit cards).

4-9 Japan Pension Service

The National Pension is a public pension system participated in by all persons aged 20 to 59 years who have an address in Japan. It provides “Basic Pension” benefits for those affected by old age, disability, or death. Since you are a student, you may be allowed to postpone payment if your income is less than a certain amount. This is called “Special Payment System for Students”.