

Obihiro Pioneer

Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section Newsletter

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How to Separate Garbage #1

ごみ分別のし方#1

Separating trash is one of the many parts of life in Japan that even those who have lived here for years don't really understand. This month, let's learn how to dispose of garbage properly and do your part to save the world. NOTE: This is specifically written for Obihiro garbage disposal and may be different where you live.

bags" (burnable waste) and **"blue bags"** (non-burnable waste). You can



buy these bags at basically any grocery/convenience store. You **MUST** use these bags or your trash won't be picked up. You can't use bags from another town or your own bags.

Every house/apartment has a place outside where you take out your trash. Please only take your trash out the **morning when it's supposed to be picked up before 9 am**. The reason for this is that crows might show up to pick at your garbage, even if your garbage disposal area is a cage.

Garbage Separation Poster



Everything this newsletter will cover about garbage separation can be found on the poster found at this QR code. However, the explanations are a bit lacking. I will fill in the gaps and give some advice to make this poster more understandable. You can get this poster for free at the locations listed at the top of the poster.

2) Checking your Disposal Days



Regardless of where you live, **red bags** get picked up **twice every week**, and **blue bags** get picked up **once every two weeks**. Scan this QR code and you'll see two links. So, depending on where you live, your garbage pickup days will change. The first link helps you figure out those days based on the map from the second link. If you can't read Japanese, (even if you do, the map is hard to

Part 1: Non Recyclable Garbage (Trash)

1) Basic Separation Rules

This month, I will cover non-recyclable garbage, and next month I will be covering fine details on recycling! There are bags that are specifically made by the city for trash separation: **"red**



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understand), ask someone who can to help you figure it out. The place where you throw out your garbage probably has it written somewhere. If you don't read Japanese, I recommend at least learning the days of the week, as it will help you in the long run.

3) Burnable Garbage “Red Bags”

If you can light it on fire, it goes in a red bag. This includes things like :

- Food waste (drain the water out)
- Things made out of fabric (clothes, towels, etc.)
- Small paper waste (paper towels, napkins, receipts, envelopes, etc)
- Wooden things like disposable chopsticks



However, red bags cost money, meaning the more you use them, the more money you spend. If you have **recyclable waste**, you can use cheap bags and save a bit on red bags (more on this later).

ADVICE:

- Food waste can get smelly, so I suggest putting food waste in a cheap plastic bag and throwing it in the freezer until garbage day. That way, your house won't smell like rotting food and the gnats won't show up.
- Buy bags that you can completely fill up in a week's time. If you live alone, 10L bags might be good. If you have a family, bigger might be better. The longer you keep the bag, the longer you have to hold on to food waste, so you want to throw stuff away as soon as possible.
- Since bags cost money, try to recycle when you can. More on this next month, but basically, if the

item is burnable but fits one of the recycle categories and **isn't** torn to pieces, recycle it instead! You can buy tons of giant bags for 100 yen and use them to recycle rather than spend tons on countless red bags, and help the environment!

- When in doubt, just put the item in a blue bag.
- Washing oil down the drain is the easy way out, but it is bad for your pipes and makes them grimy and smelly. I suggest buying coagulant at a 100 yen shop (abura katame-zai). It's this stuff that turns your oil into a pancake which you can throw away in a red bag.

4) Non-Burnable Garbage “Blue Bags”

If you can't light it on fire, it probably goes in a blue bag.

- Plastic items (Tupperware, CDs, wrap, etc)
- Leather items
- Aluminum-made items
- Glass (wrap it up in newspaper and write キケン on it)
- Metal items (pans, etc)
- Small appliances (small fans, rice cookers, etc)
- Light bulbs, toys, shoes



As you can see, basically anything that doesn't burn is, well, non-burnable garbage! If the item is big, say, a regular sized vacuum cleaner, you must throw it out another way or it won't get picked up.

ADVICE:

- Just like red bags, these cost money (and fill up faster), so recycle as much as possible! Quite a lot of things are recyclable, so with a bit of effort, you can reduce your blue bag usage more than

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you realize!

- If you have any blue bag waste that was in contact with food, I suggest first rinsing it off with water. For example, wrapping for meat or vegetables. It probably has liquid from the food and will smell over time, which doesn't spark joy.
- Try to put garbage inside other garbage. Have a dirty bag of chips? Stuff it up with little pieces of plastic garbage! It saves empty space and lets you fill the bags up with more.

the garbage so that it gets taken away, even if it doesn't fit in the bag. However, it has to be smaller than certain dimensions to use these tickets, otherwise it's considered oversized garbage (more on this next month). The dimensions can be found on the poster.



5) Disposal Tickets for Bigger Garbage

The city has some restrictions on the sizes of things it can pick up. As a general rule, if the item is bigger than the garbage bag or has a chance of tearing the bag, then it can be thrown out with a **waste disposal ticket**. These are little tickets that you can buy at grocery/convenience stores that you attach to

6) Non-Recyclable but Free to Dispose Of

There are some burnable items that you take out on burnable day that are free to throw away. By the way, "free" means that you can use any transparent bag rather than the city designated ones, so you can save money. These items are diapers, urine pads, baby wipes, and nursing cotton wipes. You can also take small electronics to collection boxes located at places written on the poster! Next month, we will be covering recyclable garbage and hazardous waste!

Movies @ Cinema Taiyo in Obihiro

Not all movies are listed. Times and movies are subject to change. To confirm, call or check online at: www.taiyogroup.jp/movie/obihiro			
Title	Genre	Lang	Dates
The First Slam Dunk <i>Za Fāsuto Suramu Danku</i>	anime	JP	Until 26 th
Avatar: Way of Water <i>Abatā Wei Obu Wōtā</i>	action/ fantasy	JP	Until 26 th
Kamen Rider Geats x Revice: Movie Battle Royale <i>Kamen Raidā Gītsu x Kamen Raidā Ribaisu</i>	Action	JP	Until 26 th
Black Night Parade <i>Burakku Naito Parēdo</i>	mystery/ suspense	JP	All Month
That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime Movie <i>Tensei Shitara Suraimu Datta Ken</i>	anime	JP	From 13 th
THE LEGEND & BUTTERFLY <i>Za Rejendo Ando Batafurai</i>	adventure /romance	JP	From 27 th


KEY: JP = Japanese voice EN = English voice with Japanese subtitles

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Events in Tokachi

Please be aware that these and other events may be affected by COVID-19. To find out if these events are still running, please contact the respective organizers or check out their webpages online.

When	What	Where/Contact
1/14 (Sat) 15:00-16:30	International Talk: Iran インターナショナル・トーク:「イラン」 International Talk is an event where guest speakers give talks about their home countries. This time, Atefeh Fathi from Iran will give a talk titled "It's Not What You Think! Media Portrayal of Iran & The Real Iran". Learn interesting facts about the people, customs and lifestyle of Iran while participating in fun English quizzes and having free talk with the guest! Fee: Free of charge Notes: Please wear a mask to the event	Tokachi International Relations Center @ Obihiro 帯広市観光交流課 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
1/21 (Sat) 10:30-12:00	Kid's Playground: Australia キッズ・プレイグラウンド:「オーストラリア」 Parents and children can learn together about foreign cultures through song, dance, and art and craft in Kid's Playground! This month, Kar Yin from Australia will be our guest speaker. Come and enjoy a fun time! Fee: Free of charge Participants: Max 40 people Registration: Register online from 12/15 ~ 1/5, accessed by the QR code	
1/27, 1/28 (Fri, Sat) 15:00-19:00 10:00-14:00	Consultations for Foreign Residents in Obihiro 「移動相談会」と「専門家相談」in帯広 The Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center is holding free consultation sessions in Obihiro. Professions can answer questions about health insurance, pension, driver's licenses, work issues, residence status, land use, permanent residence, and many more topics. The 27th will take place at Tokachi Plaza, and the 28th will be at Obihiro University. Fee: Free of charge Registration: Not necessary	Tokachi Plaza @ Obihiro / Obihiro University Kashiwa Plaza Communication Hall@ Obihiro 北海道外国人相談センター 011-200-9595
1/27, 1/28, 1/29 (Fri, Sat, Sun) 10:00-20:00 (Day 1, 2) 10:00-18:00 (Day 3)	60th Obihiro Ice Festival 第60回おびひろ氷まつり The Obihiro Ice Festival is coming back in strong force this year as we celebrate the 60th annual ice festival! Come and check out the giant ice slide, ice sculptures, candle lighting, carnival games, food, performances, and much more! Fee: Free of charge Note: Wear a mask and disinfect your hands at the door.	Midorigaoka Park @ Obihiro 帯広コンベンション協会 0155-22-8600

Obihiro Pioneer is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro City Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section for residents of the Tokachi District and related parties. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views or opinions of the Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section or the City of Obihiro.

Obihiro Pioneer can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, JICA Obihiro International Center, and Cinema Taiyo. The digital version can be found on Obihiro City's homepage at www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp (search for "Obihiro Pioneer") or by scanning the QR code on the right.

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For Haru, Ren, and Maya

