



5 Moving in

After deciding what house or room to rent and signing the contract, you can then proceed to prepare for moving in. Preparation may include cleaning, application for using electricity, gas and water, and alien registration. You may also want to have daily necessities ready for use in the new home. Also, it is important to greet the nearby residents to get to know each other.

5-1 Moving in for the first time

(1) Receiving a key

After signing a contract, you will be given a key for your house. Make sure to not lose it as you need to return it when moving out. In case you lose it, you must promptly notify the landlord and the real-estate agent. Sometimes you may be asked to pay for replacing the key. Such measures are essential for preventing crimes.

(2) Applying for electricity, gas, water

For lifeline utilities (electricity, gas, water), make sure you complete applications to use them before moving in. You can undertake the following procedures, although the details may vary slightly according to region.

	Electricity	Gas	Water
When to start service	Upon moving in, or after receiving the key	Upon moving in, or after receiving the key	Upon moving in, or after receiving the key
Where to contact	Electricity company in the region	Gas company in the region	Municipal waterworks department
Procedure	Pull up circuit breaker switch to turn on the electricity. Send the form attached to the breaker after filling in your name, address, and the starting date. If there is no form attached, call the electricity company directly.	Call the gas company to have the valve opened on the day you want to start using it. The company will send a person to open the valve on the day and time you specify.	Contact the municipal waterworks department, etc., and have a person come to open the valve on the day you want to start using it. In some case, you open the valve by yourself and send a specific form after filling in your name, address, and the starting date.
Remarks		Most rental housing are not provided with gas stoves for cooking. You may need to purchase it beforehand.	Upon visit or contract, make sure to ask whether water can be used right after moving in.

(3) Room cleaning

Rooms for rent are mostly kept well. Nevertheless, you may want to clean up before moving in to start a new life



comfortably. To make the process easier, it is important to apply for using electricity, gas and water beforehand.

(4) Providing daily necessities

In general, rental housing in Japan is not provided with furniture and curtains. Daily necessities such as furniture, appliances, bedding, kitchenware, toiletries must be prepared by the residents.

(5) Greetings after moving in

In Japan, there is a custom for the new residents to greet the neighbors. It is important to acquaint yourself with the nearby residents who may become an important information source on the region. Introduce yourself briefly by clarifying your name and occupation.

(6) Alien registration

Resister at the municipal administrative office of the area you live in. For details, please refer to "[B Alien Registration, 1-1 Upon Arrival in Japan.](#)"