In Japan: How to Sort Your Waste

Waste-sorting rules vary by city and municipality in Japan. Each municipality has its own rules for separating waste, collection days, and disposal methods.

An example from Kobe City, Japan, where household waste is divided into six categories to reduce waste, promote recycling, and keep the city clean.

In Kobe, Japan: How to Sort your Waste

- General Waste
  - Trash
    - Family
    - Business
  - Human Waste
  - Special Waste
- Industrial Waste

- Waste can burn
  - Paper, Clothing, food waste
- Waste can NOT burn
  - Plastic, glass, rubber, metal
  - Glass Bottles
  - Cans
  - Plastic Bottles

1. Cans, Glass Bottles and PET Bottles

- Drink and food cans, glass bottles, and PET plastic bottles used for drinks, food, and seasonings.
- Empty the containers and rinse them with water.
- Remove caps and labels from PET bottles. Put plastic caps and labels in the plastic containers and packaging category, and metal caps in non-burnable waste.
- Crush PET bottles flat before disposal.

2. Plastic Containers and Packaging

- Plastic packaging marked with the プラ symbol, such as food trays, plastic bags, cups, shampoo bottles, and Styrofoam packaging.
- Empty the contents and rinse or wipe away dirt.
- If the dirt cannot be removed, dispose of the item as burnable waste.

3. Burnable Waste

- Food waste, dirty paper, and other items classified as burnable waste.
- Drain excess liquid from food waste before disposal.
- Wrap food waste in paper where appropriate to help prevent crows from scattering rubbish.

4. Non-Burnable Waste

- Glass, ceramics, and small metal items.
- Wrap broken glass, knives, and other sharp objects safely in paper and label the bag “DANGER”
  (or Japanese: 「キケン」).

5. Gas Cartridges and Spray Cans

- Empty gas cartridges, aerosol cans, and spray cans.
- Use up all the contents before disposal.
- Place them in a transparent or semi-transparent bag, separately from other waste. Follow Kobe City’s specific safety instructions.

6. Oversized Waste

- Items that cannot fit into a 45-liter designated garbage bag with the opening tied, or items that weigh 5 kg or more.
- Arrange collection in advance, purchase the required oversized-garbage ticket, and attach it to the item before collection.

英語

Separating Garbage

Burnable garbage

Kitchen (raw) waste



Plastic waste



Wood



Other



Leather & fabric



Non-burnable garbage

Glass/ceramics etc.



Small metal items



Gas cartridges / Spray cans



- Only leave out fully used items
- Leave out of in transparent bag
- Leave out away from non-burnable garbage

【Illustration】



Cans / Bottles / PET bottles

Cans



Bottles



PET bottles



Oversized Garbage

Large items that do not fit in the 45L designated garbage bag, or large items that fit in the 45L designated garbage bag but weigh over 5 kg per item



- Please apply in advance for oversized item pickup via phone .If you do not apply in advance, Kobe City will not pick up your oversized item. TEL: 078-392-7953 (English support available)
- Do not put your oversized garbage in the "Burnables" or "Non-Burnables" -designated garbage bag.
- Disposing of oversized garbage requires a handling fee.

Oversized Garbage Disposal

Container plastics and trays

Plastic for containing/wrapping things

Indicated by this symbol

Cups /packs



Plastic Bottles



Bags/ wrapping



See the garbage collection website for more information:

英語

Garbage Collection in Kobe

- There are rules for how to leave your garbage out so please follow them.
- When everyone follows the rules, we can all have a clean city.

1. Use Kobe City designated garbage bags

- Designated garbage bags are sold at convenience stores and supermarkets.
- The various types of garbage are specified as below.
- Do not mix the different types of garbage.
- See the illustrations below for the different types of garbage and their respective designated bags for collection.





- Use transparent or semi-transparent garbage bags for gas cartridges and spray cans.

2. Leave garbage out at the Clean Station

- Leave out garbage out at the clean station（クリーンステーション）for collection.
- Only designated garbage can be left out at the clean station.
- Ask your neighbors or residence management about the location of the clean station.

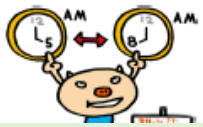
3. Garbage collection days

- There are specific days for specific types of garbage.
- You can check these days on the sign at the clean station.



4. Time of day you should leave your garbage out for collection

- Leave garbage out between 5:00am and 8:00am on the day specified for that type of garbage.



Post this brochure where it can be easily seen! 【英　語】

Save this Edition

Rules for Sorting and Putting Out Garbage and Recyclables

Follow the rules for putting out garbage and recyclables

Violating the rules (Ordinances regarding waste-disposal, recycling, and environment preservation of City of Kobe) is subject to a maximum fine of ¥100,000.

Put out garbage and recyclables between 5:00am and 8:00am on collection days.

- Don't put your garbage out on the evening before. Animals (cats, crows, boars, etc) tear open the bags and scatter the garbage.

Use designated bag only (except for Oversized Garbage)

- The city of Kobe introduced the designated garbage bag system to facilitate sorting and disposing of garbage and recyclables and also to raise awareness of garbage segregation. Please use designated bags when putting out garbage and recyclables (except Oversized Garbage).
- Don't make a bag of garbage too heavy to be carried with one hand. Tie the bag tightly at the top.

Put out garbage and recyclables at your local "Clean Station".

- "Clean Stations" are managed by local citizens. Please cooperate with activities such as cleaning. Take your garbage to your local Clean Station. Never take your garbage to other Clean Stations.
- Ask your neighbors or apartment manager/owner about the location of your local Clean Station. Check the signboard at the Clean Station for the collection schedule.

(* Clean Stations are not dump-sites. They are sites where designated garbage is temporarily stored until collected by the city.)

Cans, Bottles, PET Bottles

Use designated bags only!

Collection Days Once a week, Wednesdays

- **Cans, Bottles, PET Bottles (for drinks, foods, and seasonings)**

Cans



Bottles

* Bring returnable bottles (e.g. beer and 1.8L bottles) to stores when possible.



PET Bottles



Points to note when you put out recyclables

1 Empty the cans/bottles, and remove the caps

Remove the label on the PET bottles

★Plastic caps and labels are "Container plastics and trays". Metal caps are Non-burnable garbage.

2 Rinse the inside with water.

3 Crush PET bottles flat.

Cans, bottles and PET bottles can be put into one designate bag, but don't put any other kinds of garbage in it.

Container Plastics and Trays

Use designated bags only!

Collection Days Once a week, ☐ days

This mark means "recyclable plastic"

Plastic containers and wrappings with the plastic identification mark.

Cups, Packages



Trays



※ Dispose food product trays at the food packaging collecting station located outside the supermarkets as much as possible.

Bags, Wrappings



Bottles



Points to note when you put these out

■ **Be sure to use up all the contents. If the items are dirty, wipe or wash them before putting them out.**

*If not cleanable, put the dirty items out as Burnable garbage.

■ **Do not use inner packaging (ie. shopping bags) and place it directly into the designated bags.**

Oversized Garbage



Request in advance　Fees charged

Call (or fax) the Oversized Garbage Reception Center

☎392-7953　FAX 392-5500

Reception hours: 9:00am-4:00pm (Mon-Fri)

(Except Dec.29 – Jan.3)

*Opens on public holidays (Mon-Fri)

- **Items too large for 45L designated bags to be fastened.**
- **Items that fit in 45L designated bags but whose individual weight is 5kg or more.**

Large Furniture



Bicycles



Bulky Garbage



How to dispose of the items

1 Call the reception center

2 Buy oversized garbage tickets and attach them to the items.

3 Put the items out on the designated day.

*Unregistered items won't be collected.

Non-burnable Garbage

Use designated bags only!



(Put them out separately from other non-burnable items)

Collection Days Twice a month, ◯ & ◯ ☐ day

- **Items must be small enough to fit in a 45L designated bag, and whose individual weight is 5kg or less.**

Glass, Ceramics



Small Electric Appliances, Small Metal Items



Points to note when you put out garbage

■ **How to dispose of broken and sharp pointed items**

Wrap the items (ie. glass, ceramics, knives, fork) in paper and place them in designated bags. Attach a notice saying 「キケン」(danger) on the bag.

※ Separating these items from other non-burnable garbage is not necessary.

■ **How to dispose of umbrellas and LED light tubes**

Place umbrellas and LED light tubes sideways or diagonally into the 45L designated bags and tie the bag tightly at the top. It is OK if the items do not completely fit within the bags.

※ Please bring fluorescent light items to a participating store for collection (home electronics stores, home centers, local electronics shops, supermarkets, etc.).

Gas cartridges, Spray cans

No designated bags!

A see-through bag (15L or less)

※Bag size about 45cm x 55cm or less
※Clear/transparent grocery store bags
LL size or smaller

Collection Days Twice a month, ◯ & ◯ ☐ day

- **Emptied gas cartridges, spray cans and aerosol cans (hairsprays, insecticides, etc).(All the content must be used up.)**

Gas Cartridges

Spray Cans　**Aerosol Cans**



Points to note when you put these out

1 Empty the can completely

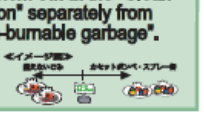


2 You do not need to make a hole in the can.



3 Separate them from "Non-burnable garbage", and place them in a see-through bag (15L or less).

4 Put them out at the "Clean Station" separately from "Non-burnable garbage".



Burnable Garbage

Use designated bags only!

Collection Days Twice a week, ☐ & ☐ days

- **Items must be small enough to fit in a 45L designated bag, and whose individual weight is 5kg or less.**

Kitchen Waste　**Paper Waste**



Leather, Fabrics



Plastic Items



Wood Items　**Other**



Points to note when you put these out

■ For oil substances, either absorb in cloth or paper, use a solidifying agent, or put it into a small polyethylene bag and place it into the designated bags.

■ For bamboo skewers, break the skewers into halves and wrap them with paper.

■ Completely drain or solidify kitchen trash.

Recyclables collection for your district

Newspapers・Paper waste・Cardboard

Clothes/Fabrics ・ ・

Collection days and time

※Take out recyclable paper to the local community resources collection center. (see back for details)

Remember the Rules!

- Use Kobe City’s designated garbage bags for the applicable waste categories.
- Put waste at the designated collection point, called a *Clean Station* (クリーンステーション).
- Check the collection schedule and put out waste only on the correct day, between **5:00 and 8:00 a.m.**
- Do not mix different waste categories. Follow the instructions displayed at your local Clean Station.
- Cover garbage bags completely with the provided net, if available, to prevent crows from scattering the waste.

Sort correctly • Recycle more • Keep our communities clean!