

hokkaido *Life*

APPLIANCES

The links in these documents contain information to make your life in Hokkaido easier and more enjoyable. Access each link and add it to your favourites list.

Hot Water System

- Ask the person who takes you to your new apartment to show you how to turn it on and off, then write it down so you won't forget!
- Switch gas valve on at back of range – for earthquake precautions it's recommended you switch it off after use.
- Turn the burner dial clockwise until it clicks and a flame appears, or if you have 2 vertical switches, push both down simultaneously.
- HOLD the dial/s for an extra second or two, then release.
- Once burner is lit, adjust flame.
- The grill in the center works the same way.
- Beside the dial it shows which burner has greater intensity of the flame with either 2 'flame' pictures or 3.
- When using the grill (fish picture), pour a small amount of water in the base tray. This catches the oil, residue, etc, and restricts the chances of your food catching alight.
- Keep the burners and grill clean to restrict potential fires!

Rice Cooker

- Open the lid, remove the inner metal bowl. Place in a quantity of rice (1 cup uncooked makes about double that size cooked).

- Add water to 'wash' the rice. This removes the starch. Push rice firmly downwards with your hand, drain. It should be rinsed several times until water is clear – but this is up to you.
- Add the same amount of clean water as you did rice.
- Place bowl back into cooker.
- Press start button.
- After cooking it will switch itself over to a 'warming' function. Depending on your model, it should also have a timer, in which you can set it to cook while you're at work/sleeping.

TV/VCR

The Japanese button for bilingual on your remote control might look like any of these:

- 二重音声
- 音声切換

So how do I spot a bilingual TV?

Simple - look on the front (where many TVs have sockets for video cameras etc.) or the back of the TV (where you'd plug in your speakers). If you have three colours of socket, yellow, white and red, then you're in luck! If you only have yellow and white, then it won't do bilingual.

What about VCRs?

Your video works in exactly the same way, and also needs the three colours of socket. If you have a bilingual TV, but a non-bilingual VCR, then you'll only be able to watch in English when it's broadcast.

c/o Kitakyushu JET - [\[Explaining bilingual TVs & VCRs\]](#)

Photocopy your remote controls or take an up close photo of the appliance' buttons then ask at work what they mean!

Shower/Sink

- Most manual showers come with two dials – one to switch between shower and bath and the other to regulate the temperature.

- The small red button on the side on the side of the temperature dial limits it to 50°C. Push the button if you need it to scald someone!

Heater

- It would be helpful the first time you use it to have someone show you.
- Check to see if you have to fill it yourself with kerosene or whether you need to organize a company to fill it monthly – do this well before it gets too cold, i.e. October.
- Don't let it run out of kero. It's very expensive to have the pipes cleared of air.
- Remember it is expensive – learn how to use the timer, the temperature control button, and the 'keep at a constant temperature' button.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For information on Japanese electricity (type of plug, voltage), click [\[here\]](#).

The disposal of electric appliances and other large sized garbage such as furniture and bicycles is usually handled by a special collection service against a pick-up fee, usually on an appointment basis. Ask your supervisor.

As always, the official [hajat|forum](#) is where you will find all the answers to any questions you may have regarding life in Hokkaido.

HAJET kindly asks you to use paper wisely and only print this document if you really, really must. LOVE HOKKAIDO, LOVE THE ENVIRONMENT!

USEFUL RESOURCES

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Japan Guide

www.hokkaidojets.org
www.japan-guide.com

Hokkaido Association of Japan Exchange and Teaching
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