

## 環境美化センター

The Beautification Center, located 〒403-0002 山梨県富士吉田市小明見690



Hours of Operation: Mon - Fri 9:00am to 3:00pm

Sat 9:00am to 12:00pm

Closed Sundays and National Holidays.

The Beautification Center is located at the edge of Fujiyoshida as you're heading towards Otsuki. This is the place where all collected trash and recyclables are collected and processed.

The burnables (green bags for those of us in Fujiyoshida, yellow bags for Kawaguchiko folks) are dumped into a giant furnace and burned on site. The fire is used to help create steam that powers a turbine which is fed back into Tokyo Electric's grid.

The recyclables are sorted, stripped, or compacted then shipped off to various different locations to be processed.

In Fujiyoshida, many things are expected to be recycled, however, there are only 3 bins on recycle day set out. The カン (blue)、ビン (orange)、不燃物 (green).

In the blue bins, is where your cans would go. This would include beverage cans, and food tins. Washed and cleaned of course.

The orange bins accept glasswares such as wine bottles, tiny energy drink bottled, and curiously enough any ceramics you may have such as dishes, cups, and bowls.

The green bins accept unburnable items such as umbrella, toaster oven, and misc. metal material as long as they fit in the box.

So what happens if you something large to dispose of that cannot fit in a regular green bag or any of the bins? You take it to the Beautification Center, of course.

There are actually 3-4 options depending of what it is that you wish to dispose of. The Beautification Center is the easiest because it will take *almost* anything, old futon, old computers, PET bottles, used frying oils. There are a few things they will not accept. For a list, please review the *how to sort trash flyer guide* set out by the city. There are English versions available. As of the time of this article, the English version is slightly outdated, but they're working on bringing it up to date to match the Japanese version.

Okay, so how to use the center:

Drive through the gate and you'll be met with an island station. Drive up to the green platform on the left side.



Park your car, and go up to the window. There should be a staff member there. There will be a small form you have to fill out. It asks for your address and what type of material you are bringing in. Or you can speak with the staff and sometimes they'll let you skip the form.



Depending on what you are bringing in or where you live (Kawaguchiko, Oshino, and Nishikatsura residents are also welcomed to use the Center), you will be charged different rates, I can only speak from a Fujiyoshida resident's POV.

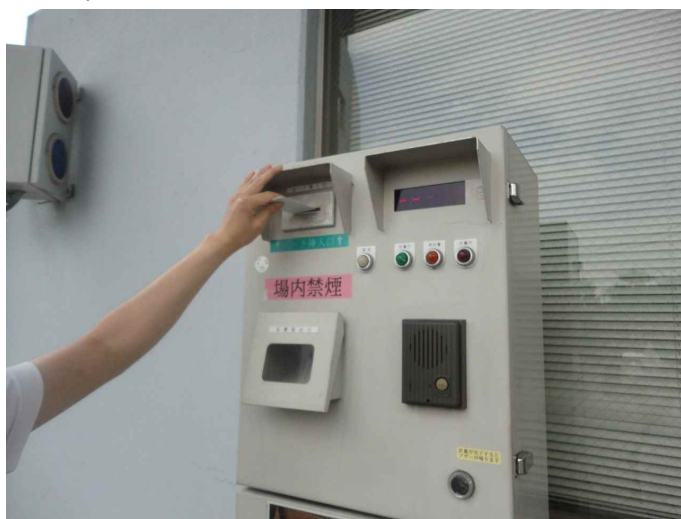
Oversized items, like a bed or big wooden shelf, will be charged 20 yen per 10 kg. Also, burnable trash that is not in a green bag sanctioned by the city will also be charged. It's all about the green bags folks, USE EM!

Okay, two different cards:



If you are bringing in recyclables such as PET bottles, cans, newspapers, etc. You will get the blue card on the left which indicates that it is free to use the center. If you are bringing in household trash that needs to be disposed of (IE, you missed the trash date and you're leaving town before the next pickup date) or bulky items, then you get the yellow tag and will be charged at the end.

Take the card given by the staff and put it into the machine on the left:





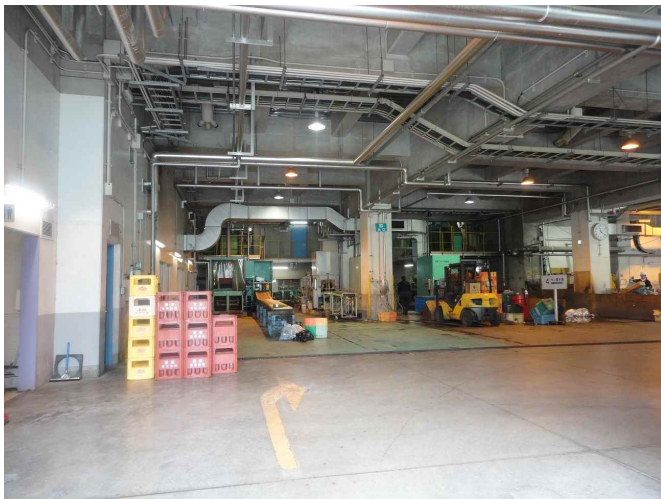
It records the weight of your vehicle and you're set to go. Get back into your car and get ready for the fork in the road right up ahead.



Option Left: Unburnable items such as bulky metal, glass/ceramic wares (orange bin), cans (blue bin), lightbulbs, batteries.

Option Right: Burnable items, oversized items, cardboard boxes, newspapers, PET bottles, styrofoam, and your I-don't-knows. The guys up here knows best.

If you choose left, please follow the hard-to-see-from-the-car yellow arrow. Proceed up to the needs-a-new-coat-of-paint sign on the floor saying STOP (except in Japanese). Park it, and staff members will come and ask for what you have.

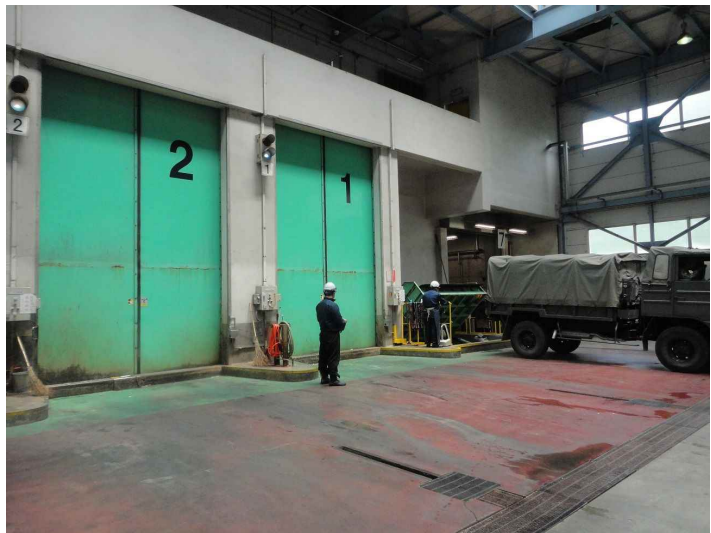


Bid them a nice farewell, and you're done. Follow the white arrow back out to the island station, watch out for merging traffic from the ramp on your right.



Going to talk about Option Right for a bit and we'll continue on with the checkout procedures.

For Option Right, just drive up the ramp and slowly creep your car into the bay area until a staff sees you and signals you which bay to park. This area is large and at times fairly busy, so they may just point to whatever is available. Back the car in and someone will come and ask for what you have.



If they're not swamped, they'll even take your cans and bottles that technically goes downstairs and save you the trip.

Once finished, drive on down the ramp back to the island station. Do be careful of the merging traffic on your left.



Okay, check out procedures:

You may proceed onto the green platform when the light is green.



Park it, and get out the small tag you received when you arrived.

There are two stations here so be aware. Use the one on the right, the shorter one. The taller one is for the official trucks.

Insert your card into the reader (labeled 1).



Depending on your card, if you need to pay then the amount will show on the display and you need to feed the machine (labeled 2).

Once fed, press the red button:



Sadly, the blue cards (no fee) do not get a red button to press.

Once cleared, you return the card to the staff at the window and you're free to drive off. Watch out as you leave the gate. Sometimes you'll be met with a trucker in a hurry around that corner.

Some things to watch out for:

- There are items they do not accept. Ask if you are unsure. If they don't accept it, they will generally tell you where to go to dispose of it. (All except soil. They don't accept soil, but they don't have an answer on how to dispose of it properly...)
- Computers are accepted, but televisions are not. (I don't know where computer monitors fall under this category, so you may need to ask).
- Electronic cables are valuable. Say you have an USB cable that just went kapoot on you, don't green bag it. Put it in unburnable (green bin) so they can strip the copper wire out of it.
- Knives are to be wrapped (newspaper is fine) and labeled before placed in unburnable bin (green).
- DO NOT throw your old batteries in burnable trash. It does not belong in the unburnable (green) either. Batteries may explode under certain conditions, so they request for us responsible residents to please dispose of it properly. Either at an electronic store, the recycling center (tin shed), or to bring it to the Center in a separate container from all your other recyclings.
- Light bulbs are dangerous too, please handle it with care and dispose of it at the Center or electronic stores.

That's it for this article. Feel free to add anything or edit any errors I may have made. And if you have any questions about recycling or disposal in Fujiyoshida, feel free to call the center at: 0555-22-0030. Mostly Japanese only speakers, but there is one or two that have fairly good English.