# **Paying Utilities in Japan**

Chances are you've received important-looking mail listing an amount of money and a due date, possibly with a barcode inside. This is most likely a utility bill for your water, electricity, gas, or internet, known as a 納付書(noufusho). But how do you pay it? And how do you identify all the different types of utility bills? Let's find out!

# Which bill is it?

Here's a list of vocabulary to help you identify exactly what you're paying for.

Electricity	<sup>でんき</sup> 電気	Rent	ゃちん 家賃
Water /Sewage	じょうげすいどう 上下水道	Internet	インターネット
Gas	ガス	(Cell) Phone	(携帯)電話
こくみんねんきん National Pension*国民年金		City Tax*	市民税
National Health Insurance*		こくみんけんこう ほけん 国民健康保険	

\*Some bills or taxes will be sent once a year in a packet, with due dates for each slip staggered through the year.

# How do I pay?

Easy! Take it to a convenience store. You can pay at the cash register, where they scan the barcode. Be sure to press the OK button on the screen to confirm the amount.

# Is this a bill?

Utility bills come in a couple different forms. Some arrive in envelopes, while others look like postcards that have to be peeled open. Check for one of the utilities keywords and a barcode. See the following pages for examples.

Note: In some areas, the water bill is paid every two months. A receipt-like paper is delivered in the month in-between to report your water usage.

### There's no barcode!

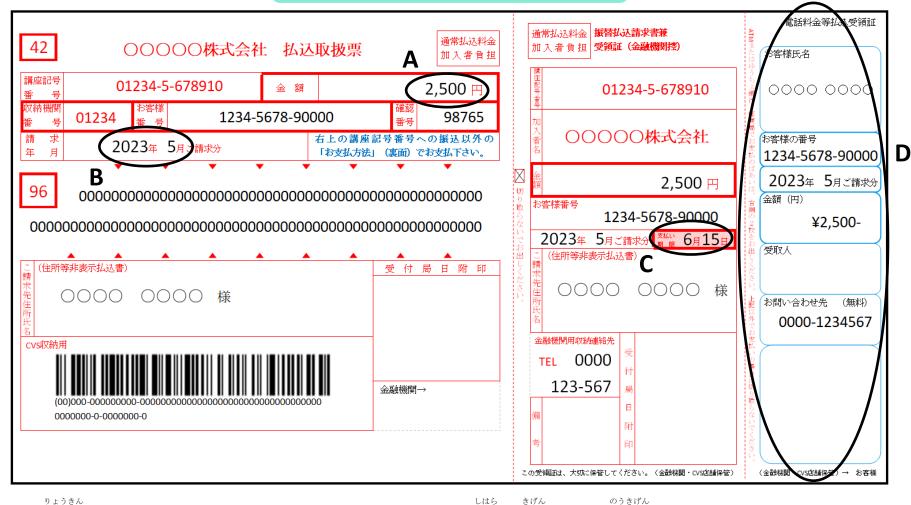
No worries! There's a good chance that your bill is being automatically deducted from your bank account. The mail you received is simply alerting you to how much will be deducted. Check with your bank for details.

# I missed the due date!

Please pay the bill as soon as possible regardless. A late fee bill may be sent to you.

**NOTE:** In many cases, you can get your bills automatically deducted from your bank account. Take the bills to your bank or contact your provider for details.

#### **Bills in Envelopes**



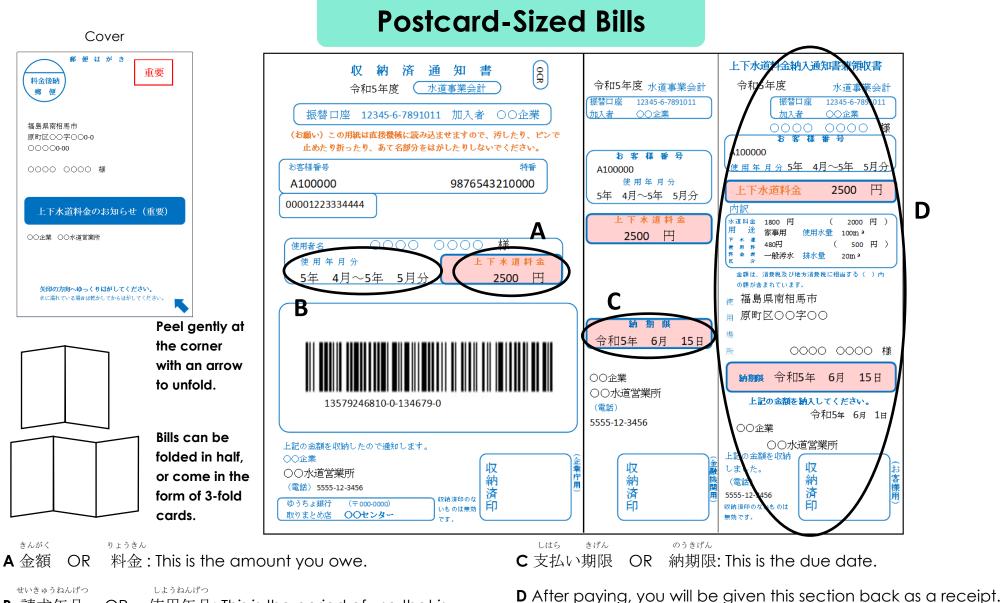
<sup>きんがく</sup> りょうきん A 金額 OR 料金: This is the amount you owe.

C 支払い期限 OR 納期限: This is the due date.

せいきゅうねんげつ しようねんげつ

B 請求年月 OR 使用年月: This is the period of use that is being charged.

**D** After paying, you will be given this section back as a receipt.



B 請求年月 OR 使用年月: This is the period of use that is being charged.

Note: Bills vary by company.