Things to do leading up to your move
These are rough guidelines of things to keep in mind while moving. Please do not panic if you’re behind my proposed timeline. Just use it as a checklist.

1 to 2 Months before moving:
- Check your credit report
- Look for errors and be aware of what perspective landlords will see
- Some moving sites even recommend taking along a report and copies to save time
- Have an idea how you’re going to move and make reservations if necessary
- Do you need to make plane/train/car rental reservations?
- Do you need to hire movers? Call them now!!! They schedule a while in advance.
- Do you need to set up with a storage facility?
- Start locating and interviewing roommates
- Have several email and phone conversations over a span of time
- Get a feel for their habits and behaviors to make sure all can live together
- Research
- Research apartment buildings
- Research private listings on Craigslist and in the Washington Post, etc.
- Research the neighborhoods and communities
- Try to get in contact with current DC residents with similar needs
- Start throwing out things you don’t need and don’t want to move.
- If you haven’t used/worn it in the past year, it’s probably disposable.
- Donations of items to organizations such as Goodwill now require
- Start taking food out of the deep freeze and stop stocking up on cleaning supplies.

6 week prior time period:
- Gather medical and health insurance contact info to have on hand through your move.
  - Schedule appointments, if necessary, to make sure you have enough refills of medicines and contact/glasses prescriptions to cover your transition period.
  - Carry insurance, doctor and dental contact information on your move in case of emergency
- Gather medical and other essential documents for children.
  - For example immunization records, school records, etc
- Prescription copies
- Gather medical and other essential documents for pets.
  - Rabies certificates/tags, spay/neuter certificates, immunization history
  - Prescription copies
- Notify service providers (cable, lawn service, etc) of the upcoming change.
- Look into renter’s insurance
- If people are helping you move, let them know what dates you plan to move
- Start retrieving items you’ve lent to others if you want them back
- Pay any tickets, fees or taxes for the location you’re leaving.
- Schedule cleaning/carpet steaming for the home/apartment you’re leaving if necessary.

4-5 weeks prior:
- This is the time most people sign leases with DC area property managers and landlords.
- Pack unneeded items you want to move.
- Find some maps of the areas you’re traveling through and moving to
- Start locating or asking for referrals for medical offices, especially if you have ongoing treatment or
  prescriptions.

2-3 weeks prior:
- Update addresses with companies such as and get address change documents from the post office.
  - Remember insurance companies, phone companies, banks, family/friends, employment from the past year that may be sending tax info to you.
  - Stored shipping/billing info if you order online.
  - Magazine subscriptions and memberships
  - Change contact info with your admissions office!
- If you driving a distance, make sure to service your car before the trip.
- Call local utility companies to figure out their process for setting up service.
- Organize, and find if necessary, important documents to keep secure while moving
- Set up a bank account in the area you’re moving.
- Drain gas or oil from lawnmowers and other machinery, if necessary.
- Throw out paints and other hazardous materials which professional moving companies won’t move.
- Schedule a walk through with your landlord prior to leaving your apartment.
- Acquire packing materials
  - Boxes, newspaper, tape, markers, filler material
- Return items you’ve borrowed or rented.

**The Last Week:**

- Pick up items from services like drycleaners.
- Clean apartment and carpets or have them cleaned.
  - Keep trash bags, cleaner and paper towels handy after packing
- Provide for final trash take-out or pickup
- Stop services which won’t travel with you
  - For example pool, newspaper, lawn service, routine babysitters, etc.
- Pack all non-essential items.
- Spend some time saying goodbye to friends
- Perform the last walk through with your landlord
- Plan on having “disposable meals” on the last couple days in your old place.
  - Have numbers for pizza and takeout
  - Have a few sets of paper plates and plastic silverware available.
- Make sure that you have paid utilities through your last night in your old place.