



WEDDING TIPPING GUIDE

9 Tips To Help You Know How Much To Tip Your Vendors

Tipping practices may vary from region to region, so please check with your vendors.

✓ **First take a good, hard look at all your wedding contracts.**

Read through them carefully to see if a gratuity is included. It's pretty standard for tips to be covered in your venue, catering, and transportation contracts. When it is included in the contract, no additional tipping is required.

✓ **A "service charge" is not considered as a gratuity.**

Contracts can be very confusing. A "service charge" is a mandatory fee that gets added to your venue and/or catering contract. Service charges don't necessarily go directly to employees, so you will need to ask how that money is being used. This extra fee can be applied to anything from venue maintenance to administrative costs, so unless you see the word "gratuity" spelled out in your contract or on your final bill, you may still need to tip.

✓ **You are not required to tip business owners.**

Technically you don't need to tip the owner of a business—just their employees. The thought process behind this is that you're already paying what the business owner has deemed an adequate price for their service. However, feel free to ignore this rule if they went above and beyond and rocked your socks off.

✓ **Prepare the tips in advance.**

Before your wedding, go to the bank and pull out cash, and then put each tip into a labeled envelope. Assign the most responsible member of your bridal party to distribute the tips over the course of the event.

✓ **Unless it's built into your contract, tipping is never mandatory.**

If you simply don't have funds to spare, you can express your appreciation in other ways. Write your vendors a rave 5-star review online, let them use some stunning photos from your wedding for their portfolio, give them a big bottle of wine, or send them a handwritten thank-you note. They'll feel all the warm fuzzies from your thoughtful gesture.

✓ **Catering companies usually include cash tips for their staff as follows:**

Catering/Banquet Manager	\$100–\$300 each
Head Waiter	\$100–\$300 each
Head Chef	\$50–\$100 each
Wait Staff and Kitchen Staff	\$20 each





Expected Tips:

Delivery + Setup	\$15 - \$20 per person	Upon Delivery
Officiant	\$50 - \$100 tip and \$100 - \$500 donation, or a gift	At the rehearsal or, rehearsal dinner
Make Up + Hair	15% - 20%	After hair and makeup done



"Check Your Contract First" Tips:

Bartenders	\$10% - 20% alcohol bill	End of reception
Catering Staff	15% - 20% of foods & beverages bill, or cash tips	End of the reception
Transportation	15% - 20%	Upon pick up or after the last ride
Venue Attendants	\$1-\$2 per guest or per car for parking valets	Beginning of reception



Optional Tips:

Coordinator/ Wedding Planner	15-20% of their fee, up to \$500 cash or a nice gift	End of reception or after honeymoon
DJ/Musician	10 - 15% of the total bill, \$50 - \$150 cash, or a gift	At the end of the performance
Floral Designer	10-15% of the total bill, \$50-\$150 cash, or a gift	Upon delivery / setup, or at the end of the reception
Photo Booth Attendant	\$50-\$100	At the end of the reception
Photographer/ Videographer	\$50-\$200 each or a nice gift	At the end of the reception

