

# Holiday

## Tipping Guide 2012

A holiday gift in the form of a monetary “tip” is a way to show gratitude to those that provide you with loyal service throughout the year. Factors such as your relationship with the person, the frequency of your service, and the quality of care that the person provides you or your family throughout the year typically determines the value of the holiday tip. The most important factor to take into consideration when deciding what and how much to tip is your personal budget. Each individual must ultimately decide what is most comfortable and appropriate.

**Children’s Teacher and Teacher’s Aid** — Before you give, check the school gift giving policy. An appropriate gift may be either a gift or gift card to a favorite store, along with a handwritten note from your child. Often, the room parent will collect money from each family and give one substantial gift from the class. For children that have more than one teacher, contact the class representative and inquire as to whether there will be a “holiday tip pool”.

**School Secretary and/or School Nurse** — Depending on how often your child forgets their homework or how many times they visit the school nurse with a tummy ache, a small gift or gift card is a great way to show your appreciation.

**School Lunch Attendant** — If they perform a special service, such as being hyper vigilant about your child’s food allergy, a gift or gift card is certainly a welcome surprise. \$10-20 to each attendant, but check the food service gift policy first.

**Your Personal Office Assistant** — Do not give him or her a “tip” unless it is in the form of a “bonus.” Rather, give a gift card or an impersonal gift such as a box of grapefruit or tickets to the movies.

**Your Boss** — No tip or gift is necessary. Unless you join a group of colleagues at the office and give the boss an “office” gift. You may also want to bring a tray of sweets for everyone at the office to enjoy. Giving the boss a gift feels similar to angling for the “most popular” award.

**Hair Stylist, Manicurist, Personal Trainer, and Massage Therapist** — A tip or gift equivalent to one visit.

**Shampoo Attendant** — Give \$10-20, depending on the amount of time he or she spends on your hair care needs throughout the year. You may give more if he or she spends more time with you than your stylist.

**Housekeeper (once a week)** — A cash amount equivalent to one day's pay and a holiday greeting card.

**Housekeeper (weekly)** — A cash amount equivalent to one week's pay and a holiday greeting card.

**Your Child's Nanny** — This is one person you don't want to skip or skimp! One to two weeks' pay and a handmade gift from your child.

**Friday Night Babysitter** — A cash amount equivalent to one night's pay, plus a note from your child.

**Dog Walker** — A cash amount equivalent to one service and a little "puppy kiss" from your pet.

**Pet Groomer** — Depending on how often you have your pet groomed, a cash amount equivalent to one service or a basket of "people" goodies from your pet.

**Neighborhood Trash Collector** — First check the local regulations for public service employees. If there are no restrictions, a tip of \$10.00-25 per person is standard. If you can't catch them during their route, call their corporate office and make arrangements to drop off the gift.

**Apartment Doorman** — Depending on the level of service your doorman provides throughout the year, the tip could range from \$50 to several hundred, based on their relationship with the tenant and the extra duties they provide on a daily basis.

**Landlord or Building Manger** — Some tenants never see their landlord and there is no need to gift or tip. Others rely heavily on their landlord or building manager and see them weekly or monthly. Depending on the service provided, a tip of \$50-200 annually is appropriate. In some cases, a tray of home baked goods may be equally acceptable. It all depends on the relationship you share with your "super".

**Building Handyman** — A tip of \$20-50 if you see him regularly, and nothing at all if you have never met him.

**Garage Attendant (Building or Apartment Dwelling)** — Consider the extent of service and tip accordingly, approximately \$50-100.

**Pool Cleaner and Gardener** — The equivalent of one week's service.

**U S Postal Service** — Government regulations do not allow US postal carriers to accept cash gifts of any kind. They may accept a small non-monetary gift that is worth less than \$20.

**FedEx and UPS** — FedEx doesn't restrict gifts or tips, but it should not be more \$75. While UPS does not have an official protocol, the gift should be determined based on your relationship with the driver. A spokesman for UPS says the company would prefer drivers be given a token gift rather than cash but they leave it up to the customer's discretion.

**Newspaper Delivery** — A good rule of thumb is to tip equal to what you pay annually for a subscription. You may forego a tip if your service is extremely poor throughout the year.