

General Tipping Guide

Expert Etiquette Diane Gottsman

Restaurant & Bar

Waiters/Waitresses

Answer: A minimum of 15% to 20% is standard, and upwards for exceptional service.

Waiters/Waitresses During Breakfast or Lunch Buffets

Answer: Attendants who walk around and fill your water glass, retrieve an additional roll, utensil or clear your dishes should be accommodated with \$1 to \$2 dollars per diner.

Wine Stewards

Answer: If they help you choose a bottle or choose it for you, it's appropriate to tip 10% to 20% of the wine bill only.

Cashier When Picking Up Take-Out

Answer: Tipping is not required and is to be left to your discretion. However, if the server has bagged your order, added extra utensils or carried it out to your car, a tip is a nice gesture. Anytime someone provides an exceptional level of service, you can't go wrong by showing your appreciation with a couple of dollars.

A Bartender Who Serves Drinks

Answer: If running a tab, tip 15% to 20% of the bill, or \$1 to \$2 per drink. Dropping loose change in a jar when it amounts to a few cents is impolite.

A Bartender Who Serves Drinks Plus a Full Meal Which Brought to You at the Bar

Answer: Tip like a server—15% to 20% of the bill is appropriate. If the bar service is separate from the meal service, tip each server individually.

Drivers

Taxi Cab Drivers

Answer: A minimum of 15% is average. 20% and above for a driver that assists you with your heavy luggage and doesn't scare the daylights out of you taking tight corners and weaving in and out of traffic en route to your hotel or destination.

Limo/Town Car Drivers

Answer: Some car companies include gratuity into their bill, however, if you receive good service and want to leave a favorable impression for the return flight home, feel free to leave an additional tip. If gratuity is not included, tip 15% – 20% of fare.

Uber and Lyft Drivers

Answer: Select a preset amount or customize your tip. Similar to a taxi driver, 15% to 20% is standard. Both Uber and Lyft drivers greatly appreciate gratuity, as well as a positive rating. Don't forget that drivers rate riders, as well.

Delivery

Curbside Grocery Deliverer

Answer: Check the grocer's website before you shop when it comes to determining whether or not the deliverer can be tipped. Most grocers do not allow tipping.

Shipt Personal Shoppers

Answer: According to the Shipt website, tipping is not required. However, exceptional service should be acknowledged with a tip which can be given in cash or within the app.

Restaurant Delivery Drivers

Answer: Tip your delivery driver 20 percent of the total bill or \$5, whichever is higher. If you receive bad service – an extremely late order, the wrong items or cold food – tip less and calmly mention your complaint to the driver or the restaurant manager, but don't neglect the tip altogether.

Third-Party Delivery Drivers (Uber Eats, Favor, Postmates, Door Dash)

Answer: Always check the website. Tipping may or may not be required, depending on the service you are using. Unlike restaurant delivery drivers, some third-party delivery drivers do pocket a portion of the service fee and in some cases, are even guaranteed a specific amount that they will receive when they are offered a delivery. However, like in a restaurant, tipping should be considered a mandatory part of any meal, especially one that is brought to your doorstep. And the service apps make it simple to add on gratuity even after you've enjoyed your meal.

Hotel

Hotel Concierges

Answer: For quick directions to the nearest coffee shop, no tip is required. However, for acquiring easy theatre tickets or dinner reservations, tip \$5 to \$10, and \$20 upwards for difficult-to-secure tickets, reservations or special services.

Hotel Housekeeping

Answer: A common mistake is to tip housekeepers at the end of the visit. It's important to tip daily as employees change from one day to another, \$3 to \$5 per day. A good rule of thumb is \$1 per person staying in the room if there are multiple people.

Hotel Luggage Attendants

Answer: Generally, \$1 to \$2 per bag, but if you only have one or two bags, make it worth the bellman's trip and offer him \$5.

Hotel Room Service

Answer: Check the bill first to see if gratuity has already been added. If it has not been included, tip 15% to 20% of the bill. It is not necessary to leave an additional tip for tray pick-up.

The Valet

Answer: \$2 to \$5 dollars when they bring your car up to the curb.

Doorman Who Hails a Cab

Answer: \$2 to \$5 for help with hailing a taxi, offering an umbrella, helping you with your bags, etc. (rule of thumb: if they “touch” it – bags, luggage, extra pillows, etc - you tip them)

Miscellaneous Services

Massage Therapist, Manicurist, Esthetician

Answer: Check the tipping policy, as some spas do not allow gratuity, or it may already be included in the bill. If not, tip 15% to 20% of service. This remains the same even if the service provider is the owner of the salon or spa.

Pet Groomer/Pet Boarder

Answer: To clean and shine your favorite pooch before dropping off at your mother in law’s home, tip anywhere from 10% to 20% of the service, depending on the relationship you have with your groomer. Generally, a kennel employee does not expect a tip at the end of your pet’s stay. However, if they have kept your pooch happy, safe and well cared for, a souvenir or nice bottle of wine may be in order.

Restroom Attendant

Answer: Some people may have never seen a person assisting in the restroom until they travel to larger cities and may be confused as to what to do or say. Greet the attendant with a smile and a cheerful “hello” and leave \$1 to \$2, depending on the service provided. (fresh towel, clean sink, hair spray, mouthwash, etc.)