

2 Friends Events

Wedding Vendors: Tipping Cheat Sheet

Below is a guideline for tipping your vendors. If using a planner, you can give tips to them in a sealed, labeled envelope for them to distribute. Unless noted in your contract, tipping is not required. We recommend tipping if you feel a vendor exceeded your expectations. You can also send a thank you card to show your gratitude for their service.

Wedding Planner

Protocol: Optional

The Standard: Up to \$500, or a nice gift

When to Tip: The bride should hand off the envelope at the end of the reception, or, she should send a thank-you note with photos or a check after the honeymoon.

Wedding Hair Stylist and Makeup Artist

Protocol: Expected

The Standard: 15 - 25%, depending upon the quality of service

When to Tip: At the end of your service

Wedding Ceremony Officiant

Protocol: Expected (depending on officiant)

The Standard: Donate \$500+ to the church or synagogue, or, for a nondenominational officiant, an optional tip of \$50 - \$100

When to Tip: Most ceremony fees are required prior to the wedding. Otherwise, have the best man pass the cash envelope at the rehearsal dinner if the officiant is in attendance.

Wedding Ceremony Musicians

Protocol: Optional

The Standard: \$15 - \$20 per musician

When to Tip: At the end of the ceremony.

Wedding Photographer/Videographer

Protocol: Optional

The Standard: \$50 - \$200 per vendor

When to Tip: At the end of the reception.

Catering Staff

Protocol: Expected

The Standard: 15 - 20% of the food and drink fee (based on labor, not the cost), or \$200 - \$300 for the maître d'.

When to Tip: If it's covered in the contract, the final bill is typically due before the reception. Otherwise, have the father of the bride or best man hand the envelope to the maître d' at the end of the reception since you will need to know the final tab to calculate the percentage.

Wedding Reception Attendants

Protocol: Optional, based on contract

The Standard: \$20 - \$25 per bartender or waiter; \$1 per guest for coat room and parking attendants; \$1 per car

When to Tip: Although tips are traditionally passed out at the end of the event, you could alternately distribute them at the beginning of the evening, to encourage all the workers to give you great service.

Wedding Reception Band or DJ

Protocol: Optional, yet preferred

The Standard: \$20 - \$25 per musician; \$50 - \$150 for DJs

When to Tip: At the end of the reception, by the best man.

Wedding Transportation

Protocol: Expected

The Standard: 15 - 20% of the total bill

When to Tip: Check your contract to see if the gratuity is already included. At the end of the night or after the last ride. If you used a separate company for the guest buses, designate a bus captain to hand the driver a tip, otherwise, this duty falls to the best man.

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