



Gratuity Guide

Plan ahead! Things to Consider When Tipping Wedding Vendors...

Unless a gratuity charge is spelled out in contract, tips are not obligatory. That said, if a vendor has gone above and beyond, it's nice to have cash on hand to tip either at the end of the rehearsal or at the end of the wedding. Gifts and tips sent after the honeymoon are appreciated, too! Cash tips should be put in sealed envelopes marked with vendor's name. These can be handled directly to the vendors or to the planner/venue manager to distribute. Please note that some vendors use the word "service" in their contracts. Make sure to clarify whether this is a gratuity that goes to staff or an internal production fee.

- Gratuity and/or a gift after the honeymoon is not expected but always appreciated by **Wedding Coordinators & Planners**. Since the couple tends to get to know these individuals the best, it is nice to recognize them. Some tip 10-15% of the fee and \$25-100 for each assistant. If the planner is the owner of the company, gratuity is not necessary, but a tip and/or a gift is very thoughtful.
- The **Caterers** handle the lion's share of the back breaking work during the cocktail & reception hours. Tips are expected and the standard is \$75-100 for the captain, \$50 for the co-captain, \$40 for bartenders, \$30 servers and \$30 chefs. Of course, Gratuity is always subjective so if you LOVED the meal or you saw the the whole team doing a fabulous job, tip accordingly!
- The **Venue Management Team** is an integral part of making sure the entire wedding process from start to finish goes smoothly. If you thought they hit it out of the park, a nice \$100-300 tip and/or a nice gift/card when you return from your honeymoon is appreciated.
- If the **Photographer/Videographer** owns his/her own company, it's not necessary to tip, but if he/she went above and beyond to capture the perfect moment, anything up to \$300 is a nice surprise. If they have an assistant, it's nice to tip \$25-100 per helper.
- If the **Florist** owns his/her own company, it's not necessary to tip, but if he/she went above and beyond to make your day special with gorgeous flower arrangements, anything up to \$300 is a nice surprise. If they have an assistant, it's nice to tip \$25-100 per helper.



- Gratuity is relatively standard when it comes to **Hair Stylists & Makeup Artists**. Like a salon, it's common to pay a 15-20% tip at the end of service.
- Tipping **Musicians & DJs** is, again, totally optional, but \$20-25 per musician or \$50-150 for a DJ is appreciated.
- If the **Officiant** is affiliated with a church or synagogue, it's common to offer a donation to that institution. Non-denominational officiants usually charge for their time so a tip is not necessary, but always appreciated.
- Wedding Transportation** vendors often includes gratuity in the contract, but if not, it's very nice to tip drivers \$100-250.