

GRATUITY GUIDELINES

Many couples have some understandable question marks about the age old quandary, To Tip or Not To Tip?! While there are some standards in the gratuity genre, it often comes down to following your heart and the spirit of those who have made your wedding day, well, ...exceptional. These simple suggestions about what typically exchanges hands, just might help you solve the conundrum and leave your vendors smiling about a job well done!

VENDOR	PROTOCOL	STANDARD AMOUNT	WHEN GIVEN
Coordinator/Wedding Planner	Optional	\$100-500 and thank you note	At the end of service
Hair Stylist & Makeup	Expected – as at a regular visit	Between 15-20%	At the end of service
Delivery and Setup Staff	Optional – depending on locale. Is it a venue with full service staff? Or is everything brought in?	\$10-15 per person	Provide envelopes the day before the wedding to the person accepting deliveries who can give tips at the delivery time
Officiate	Expected – and a thank you note	\$50-100 above the fee	The best man offers envelope to him/her at the end of ceremony
Ceremony Musicians	Optional – has the string quartet played overtime? Did the band take requests?	\$20-25 per musician	At end of ceremony
Photographer/Videographer	Optional – is the photographer the owner or the studio? If not, consider giving a cash tip	\$50-100 each	At the end of the reception
Reception Staff	Expected - be sure to check your contract. A standard gratuity may already be included	15-20% of the food and drink fee, and \$150-200 for a captain	The father of the bride or wedding coordinator hands the envelope to the captain or maitre d' at the end of the reception
Reception Attendants (hostesses, bartenders, valet)	Optional – again, check your contract, but offer a tip if service is exceptional	\$25-30 per waiter	The maitre d' to distribute to the staff at the end of the reception
Florist/Décor	Optional	\$100-500 and thank you note	At the end of set-up
Cake Bakers	Unnecessary – except for deliverer	\$10-15 per person	Upon delivery
Reception Musicians	Optional – if not the business owner	\$50-100 for DJs	At the end of the reception
Transportation	Expected - check contract, it may be included	15% of the total bill	At the end of the night, or after the last ride