



TIP SHEET FOR WEDDINGS

Source The Knot

<https://www.theknot.com/content/wedding-vendor-tipping-cheat-sheet>

When you're already digging deep into your (or your parents') pockets for wedding expenses, allotting room in your budget for gratuities on top of that can be hard to handle. And even though service charges may be spelled out in your contract, tipping—although **not mandatory**—is always appreciated for a job well done, not to mention a kind and thoughtful gesture. So don't forget to factor in tips when making your final wedding payments.

Since some vendors will expect a gratuity, and other gratuities will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis, you have a few things to consider. Traditionally, business owners of larger companies don't get tipped—just their employees—but you can and should tip an owner when the service exceeds expectations. Small business owners should never be overlooked either, since their businesses are often run by just one person.

Tip vendors who offer exceptional service, write thank-you notes (they're always appreciated) and assign the responsibility of handing them out to a trusted person, such as your wedding planner, a parent or wedding party member. Here's a helpful breakdown of what's customary for tipping each vendor.





TIP SHEET FOR WEDDINGS

Wedding Hairstylist and Makeup Artist

This is one area where gratuity is definitely expected. Tip between 15 to 25 percent just as you would in a hair salon, and consider giving a little extra if there's a crisis, like one of your bridesmaids has a meltdown over her curls and it requires a redo at the last minute.

Protocol: Expected

The Standard: 15–25 percent, depending upon the quality of service

When to Tip: Tip your beauty stylists at the end of your service.

Wedding Delivery and Setup Staff

Slip a few dollars to anyone delivering important items to the site such as the wedding cake, flowers or sound system. If a lot of gear needs to be brought in and set up (tents, chairs or porta-potties), the workers deserve a tip too.

Protocol: Optional

The Standard: \$5–\$10 per person

When to Tip: Drop off cash envelopes the day before the wedding to the catering manager so the person accepting deliveries can distribute the tip.





TIP SHEET FOR WEDDINGS

Wedding Ceremony Officiant

If your officiant is affiliated with a church or synagogue, you're often expected to make a donation to that institution. If you're a member, you'll probably want to give a larger amount than if you're not. However, if you're getting married there and they're charging you to use the space, feel free to give a smaller amount. Tipping the officiant, both nondenominational and denominational, is also appreciated.

Protocol: Expected (depending on officiant)

The Standard: Donate \$100–\$500 to the church or synagogue, and for the officiant, an optional tip of \$50–\$100

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

Wedding Planner

Wedding planners don't likely expect anything, but if yours did a great job, you can always offer a token of appreciation. (Note: Nonmonetary thank-yous like professional photos of the wedding for the planner's portfolio can go a long way too.) About 50 percent of couples do tip their planners.

Protocol: Optional

The Standard: 10–20 percent, up to \$500, or a nice gift

When to Tip: Hand off the envelope at the end of the reception or send a thank-you note with photos or a check right after the honeymoon.





TIP SHEET FOR WEDDINGS

Wedding Ceremony Musicians

If you worked with a mini orchestra to come up with the perfect score for your service and they pulled it off flawlessly, consider showing some monetary thanks for their talent. However, you probably don't have to tip the solo church organist who was required to play.

Protocol: Optional

The Standard: \$15–\$20 per musician

When to Tip: Ceremony musicians should receive a tip at the end of the ceremony.

Wedding Photographer and Videographer

You're not expected to give your shutterbugs any money beyond their normal fees. But if the wedding photographer or videographer doesn't own the studio, consider tipping each person (or give a certain amount with a thank-you note to disperse to staff).

Protocol: Optional

The Standard: \$50–\$200 per vendor

When to Tip: Tip your photographer and videographer at the end of the reception.





TIP SHEET FOR WEDDINGS

Wedding Reception Staff

This group includes the on-site coordinator, maître d' and banquet manager. A service charge (typically 2 percent) is almost always built in to the food and drink fee, so check your contract.

If the gratuity is not included, tip as follows.

Protocol: Expected

The Standard: 15–20 percent of the food and drink fee 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 wedding planner hand the envelope to the maître d' at the end of the reception.

Wedding Reception Attendants

When it comes to bartenders and waitstaff, and parking, bathroom and coatroom attendants, the rules of tipping are dictated by your contract. If the service fee is included, consider doling out extra only if the service was exceptional. If it's not included, ask ahead of time how many attendants will be working your wedding and calculate on a per person basis.

Protocol: Optional

The Standard: 10–20 percent of the liquor or food bill to be split among bartenders or waiters respectively, \$1 per guest for coatroom and \$1 per car for parking attendants

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





TIP SHEET FOR WEDDINGS

Wedding Reception Band or DJ

Whether you hire a 12-piece swing band or a single DJ, tipping musicians is completely optional, depending on the quality of the job and how willing they were to follow your ideal playlist. And don't forget about any sound technicians they bring with them.

Protocol: Optional, yet preferred

The Standard: \$25–\$35 per musician; \$50–\$150 for DJs

When to Tip: Wedding planner should tip the musicians or DJ at the end of the reception.

Wedding Transportation

Again, check your contract as gratuity is usually included. If it isn't, plan to tip provided they show up on time, provide a smooth ride and don't get lost.

Protocol: Expected

The Standard: 15–20 percent of the total bill

When to Tip: Tip transportation pros at the end of the night or after the last ride. If you used a separate company for the guest buses,

