

TIPPING GUIDELINES

UPDATED 2025

FOOD & DRINK SERVICES

- Baristas: \$0–\$2 (more if customized or complex)
- Bartenders: \$1–\$2 per drink or 15–20% of tab
- Buffets: 10% (for drink and table service)
- Grocery Delivery (e.g., Instacart): 15–20%
- Grocery Store Pickup: \$0 (tipping usually not allowed)
- Delivery Apps (e.g., DoorDash): 15–20% or \$2 per mile
- Host or Maitre d': \$10–\$20 for special treatment
- Restaurant Delivery: \$5 minimum or 15–20%
- Takeout Pickup: 0–10% (more if order is large or packaged with care)
- Waitstaff (Restaurants): 15–20% of total bill
- Wine/Beer Tasting: \$5–\$10 for free tastings; 10–20% for paid tastings

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

- Coat Check: \$1 per coat, \$2 for large bags (no tip if fee is charged)
- Cruises: \$16–\$23 per person, per day (plus 15–20% for spa/dining add-ons)
- Golf Caddies: Varies; \$3–\$5 for club cleaning, \$5–\$10 for shoe service
- Hotel Housekeeping: \$2–\$5 per night (left daily)
- Outdoor Guides: 10–20% if permitted
- Restroom Attendant: \$0–\$1
- Room Service: 15–20% (if not already included)

HOME SERVICES & TASK-BASED SERVICES

- House Cleaners: 15–20%
- Landscapers/Gardeners: \$20–\$50 per person annually or for exceptional service
- Pest Control: Tipping not expected
- Photographers: Optional; \$0 for regular sessions, \$50–\$200 for weddings (if deserved)
- Plumbers/Electricians: No tip expected (they are skilled tradespeople), but a drink/snack or good review is appreciated
- Pool Cleaners: No tip required, but a holiday bonus or thank-you gift is nice
- TaskRabbit / Misc. Gig Work: Up to 10% for good service

CHILD CARE & EDUCATION

- Babysitters/Nannies: Optional; \$10–\$20 bonus per day or 1 night's pay during holidays
- Daycare Staff/Teachers: Gifts preferred over cash; small group gift or \$10–\$50 gift card during holidays

SALON, SPA, & GROOMING

- Dog Groomers: 15–20%
- Hair Stylist/Barber: 15–20% (plus \$3–\$5 for assistants)
- Massage Therapist: 15–20%
- Nail Tech / Beauticians: 15–20%
- Tattoo Artists: 15–20%

TRANSPORTATION & DELIVERY

- Car Wash: \$2–\$5 (hand wash); 10–20% for detailing; \$0–\$2 for automatic
- Furniture Delivery: \$5–\$20 per person
- Movers: \$4–\$5/hour per mover or \$20–\$100 total
- Rideshare (Uber/Lyft): 10–20% (tip more for extras like water/chargers)
- Taxi: 15–20%
- Valet: \$1–\$10 (rule of thumb: \$1 per \$10k car value)

EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

- Catering Staff: 15–20% of catering bill, divided among staff
- Event Planners: Optional; 10–20% if not included in fee
- Wedding Officiant: \$50–\$100 (unless part of a religious institution)

HOLIDAYS & SEASONAL

- Doormen/Superintendents: \$20–\$100+ depending on service level and building norms
- Mail Carriers: Gifts only (no cash); value under \$20 (e.g., coffee, gloves)
- Newspaper Delivery: \$10–\$30
- Trash/Recycling Collectors: \$10–\$30 per person (check local rules first)

WHO/WHEN NOT TO TIP

- Self-Service Situations
- Retail Store Employees
- Carpet Cleaners
- Handymen
- Fast Food Chains & Drive-Thrus
- Tech-Based Grocery Pickup at Major Retailers
- Automatic Service Charges Are Already Included
- Professional Services with High Fees (Lawyers, doctors, etc.)
- When There's a Strict No-Tipping Policy
- Automatic Car Washes (No Human Interaction)
- Government or Public Service Workers
- Volunteers or Community Service Providers