

Vendor Tips & Etiquette

While tips are 100% optional, they are greatly appreciated by all your Vendors
Weddings fall in the category of the service industry so tipping is greatly appreciated, but never required.
Tip the Vendors that you loved working with or that went above & beyond for you and your wedding!

To save some time and hassle, fill out thank you cards with tips in them before the wedding. You've been working with your vendors for a length of time now & should have a good feel for those that deserve a little extra (and those that don't). Give these cards to someone to hold and pass out at the wedding to all the Vendors. Each vendor should be giving an envelope with at least a card. If they did not do a good job, you do not need to include a tip inside, but Etiquette says that if one gets one, they all get one. So prepare cards for them all and include a nice tip for those that did a great job!

Industry Standards for Tipping Vendors:

Catering: 18-22% or \$0-\$60 per Server/Bartender. However, most already have gratuity included.

Hair/Makeup: 15-20% of total cost

Photo/Video: \$100 per person

Officiant: \$50 or donation to church

Music: \$50 per player or DJ

Florist: \$150-\$250 for their team

Valet/Drivers: \$15-\$25 per person

Delivery/Set-up: \$5-\$20 per person

Planner: \$100-\$400 depending on involvement

Seamstress: 15-20% of total cost

Stationer: 5-10% of total cost

Etiquette and Exceptions

There are many different ways & times to tip. Some will tell you before the wedding or after the honeymoon. Some will say to do checks vs cash or personal gifts vs monetary. Some will say that you must tip everyone, or it's optional for some, but not others..... They are all right. There is no certain way, amount, or etiquette on how, who, or when to tip. However, keep a few things in mind. After the honeymoon you will be busy with after wedding tasks (thank you cards, paperwork, name changes, etc) and most people who wait until after the honeymoon forget about small things. The more you can do before the wedding the better. If you know the Vendor well, personal gifts are a nice touch. Since most of your Vendors will not be personal friends, stick to money vs trying to picket something nice for them. It's an added stress you don't need. Cash is always best. Checks typically have to go through the company and become taxed. Tip based on performance. If they did alright, tip the standard. If they were exceptional, tip more. If they did not do well, don't tip. Just make sure give all of them an envelope if you do hand them out at the wedding.