

# OUT OF BOX

## event productions

### ***Please keep the following in mind when tipping:***

- *Cash is king! It's best to use cash that way Uncle Sam doesn't take part of their tips. If you must use a check it's best to write it to the individual rather than the business name*
- *Have envelopes with the individual names listed so that your planner can distribute the tips.*

***Below is a breakdown of what's a customary tip for each type of vendor:***

#### **Wedding Hair Stylist and Makeup Artist**

This is one area where a gratuity is definitely expected. Tip between 20-30 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 updo and it requires a redo at the last minute.

**Protocol:** Expected

**The \$standard:** 20 - 30 percent, depending upon the quality of service

**When to Tip:** At the end of your service

#### **Wedding Delivery and Set-up Staff**

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

**Protocol:** Optional

**The \$standard:** \$10 - \$20 per person

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

#### **Wedding Ceremony Officiant**

If your officiant is affiliated with a church or synagogue, you're often expected to make a donation to that institution (called a honorarium). 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. If you're using a nondenominational officiant, no tip is required because they will charge you for their time, but you're welcome to give them a lump sum if they spent a lot of time with you before the wedding in person or on the phone (usually \$50/\$100).

**Protocol:** Expected (depending on officiant)

**The \$standard:** Donate \$500+ to the church or synagogue, or, for a nondenominational officiant, an optional tip of \$50 - \$100

**When to Tip:** Most ceremony fees are required prior to the wedding.

## **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 don't have to tip the solo church organist too much as they are required to play.

**Protocol:** Optional

**The \$standard:** \$15 - \$20 per musician or 20% of their fee

**When to Tip:** At the end of the ceremony.

## **Wedding Planner**

A token of your appreciation is always welcome. Note: Monetary is always appreciated but so are non-monetary gifts (if you know their tastes) along with a 5 star reviews on The Knot. Professional photos of the wedding for the planner's portfolio can go a long way too.

**Protocol:** Optional

**The \$standard:** \$250+, or a percentage (10 to 20%) of the area's they managed, a nice gift is always welcome too.

**When to Tip:** The bride (or MOB/FOB) should hand off the envelope at the rehearsal or at the reception.

## **Wedding Photographer/Videographer**

You're not expected to give your shutterbugs any dough beyond their normal fees. Yet 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:** At the end of the reception – your planner can distribute.

## **Wedding Reception Staff**

This type of staff includes the on-site venue or caterer coordinator, banquet manager, and banquet servers. Remember: The Service Fee on your catering invoice pays for staff labor but is not distributed as a tip to the managers or servers.

**Protocol:** Expected

**The \$standard:** 15 - 20 percent of the food and drink fee

**When to Tip:** The planner can distribute or have the father or mother of the bride or best man hand the envelope to the staff person at the end of the night.

## **Wedding Reception Attendants**

When it comes to bartenders, barbacks, bussers, parking, bathroom, and coat-room attendants a little goes a long way! Consider doling out extra because the service fee does not go to the staff as a tip it is used by the caterer to pay staff their hourly rate only. If it's not included, ask ahead of time how many staff people will be working your wedding and calculate on a per person basis.

**Protocol:** Optional, based on contract

**The \$tandard:** \$20 - \$25 per bartender, waiter, barback, or other server/attendant.

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

## **Wedding Reception Band or DJ**

Whether you hire 12-piece swing band or grooving to a 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 \$tandard:** \$20 - \$25 per musician; \$50 - \$150 for DJs

**When to Tip:** At the end of the reception, by the best man, planner, or father/mother of the bride.

## **Wedding Transportation**

If gratuity is not included already plan to tip provided they show up on time and don't get lost!

**Protocol:** Expected

**The \$tandard:** \$20 to \$50 per driver

**When to Tip:** At the end of the night or after the last ride. If you used a separate company for the guest buses, designate a bus captain to hand the driver a tip, otherwise, this duty falls to the best man (distribute before there's been too much drinking and it's forgotten).