

Do Everything Better (Except Gargling)

HOW TO



MONEY TALKS

TIP ANYONE

Sometimes a heartfelt hug just doesn't cut it. Especially with strippers.

FOOD DELIVERY GUY

Standard: 10 to 15 percent. Add it to your credit card receipt or give cash folded in half.

Extra service: Starving? Tell 'em you're rushed and to please run your card through now with an additional 15 percent, advises Stacie Krajchir, coauthor of *The Itty Bitty Guide to Tipping*. Your kung pao is imminent.

MOVING OR FURNITURE-DELIVERY GUY

Standard: \$5 to \$10. Tip an extra \$5 to \$10, folded, if he helps you assemble your new IKEA Böllshlapp shelving unit. **Extra service:** Movers get hungry and thirsty. Provide food and drink early and they'll treat your Hummel figurines with care.

PARKING VALET

Standard: \$2 to \$5, folded, when your ride returns safely. **Extra service:** "If you want your hot rod parked front and center, tip \$5 to \$10 extra when you arrive," says Krajchir.

CABBY

Standard: 10 to 15 percent. **Extra service:** Behind schedule? Tell the driver drinks are on you if he hustles, and fork over an extra \$5 to \$10 up-front.

BARTENDER

Standard: 15 to 20 percent of drink bill, or \$1 per drink. **Extra service:** Crowded bar? Catch her eye and explain, "We're celebrating all night; thanks for taking care of us." Hand her \$20 and she'll be your personal drinkologist," Krajchir says.

RESTAURANT STAFF

Standard: Waiter gets 15 to 20 percent of the pretax bill (he'll share it with the busboy). **Extra service:** No reservation? Call the maitre d' on the way, give your name, and tell him you know it's busy but you hope there's a cancellation. When you arrive, introduce yourself, hand him a folded twenty and say, "I hope you can take care of us tonight." Works for us at Chili's!

HOTEL STAFF

Standard: Doormen get \$2 to \$3 for hailing cabs and hefting bags. Bell staff get \$1 to \$2 a bag and \$2 to \$5 for special deliveries. Housekeeping gets \$2 a night, \$3 to \$4 at swankier joints. Room service? 15 percent. **Extra service:** The concierge is your personal assistant. Slip him \$5 for dinner reservations and small services, \$10 for hard-to-get reservations, and \$25 for tickets to a sold-out concert or game. If you're a frequent guest and a good tipper, don't hesitate to ask for room upgrades, too.

STRIPPER

Standard: \$1 to \$3 per song for stage dancers. If you'd like one to stop by, place \$5 to \$20 on the stage. For a dancer working the floor, tip \$1 to \$5 and buy her a drink. Lap dancers get \$5 to \$20 over the dance fee. **Extra service:** A compliment and a Hamilton in her G-string up-front and she'll pretend to enjoy it that much more.



Text: Litty Mathew (Tip); Wyatt Myers (Steak); styling: Krisana Palma



OFF THE HOOK

SAVE YOUR DOUGH

Six suckers you need not tip.



TAKEOUT COUNTER

He slides a greasy bag across a table, then looks at you expectantly. Smile and leave.



AUTO MECHANIC

For better or worse, charges for shoddy labor are included in the final ball-buster.



FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Unless you're flying Hooters Air, pay only for that overpriced gin and vodka.



DRY CLEANER OR TAILOR

Keep your cash, preferably not in the pair of pants you're dropping off.



COAT CHECK

Unless she stores six items on one hanger for you, part with no more than the posted price.



SLACKERS

If service is rude, inattentive, or otherwise lame, and the manager can't fix it, leave only your crumbs.