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# How much to tip everyone for the holidays

Our guide to getting gratuities right this time of year



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The purpose of holiday tipping is to “show people who serve you year-round how much you care,” says advice columnist April Masini. You can show that appreciation with cash, a present or even just a handwritten card if money is tight. In fact, it's important to remember that you “don't have to do any holiday tipping,” says Pamela Eyring, the president of etiquette school The Protocol School of Washington.

But if you do intend to tip, here are some things to keep in mind. In general, it is acceptable to give cash to people who work for tips year-round, like hairstylists, bartenders or masseuses, though many others are of course happy to receive cash as well, says Eyring. She adds that if you're going to give someone less than \$20, it's preferable to give a gift card or small gift rather than the cash. Finally, include “a nice note so that the person you're tipping knows that the gift is from you — and say something personal so that they feel appreciated,” Masini says.

Here's a breakdown of who you should tip this holiday season.

— By Catey Hill

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