

Tipping in Canada. Etiquette, Culture, & What You Need to Know

Like many countries, tipping is customary and often expected in Canada. There's certainly no law making this practice mandatory, but if you don't tip, many service workers may perceive you as rude.

The Canadian tipping etiquette varies across industries, but a common standard for most is to tip 15% to 18% of your bill before tax.

This in-depth post covers the tipping culture in Canada, including guidelines on how much to tip for specific workers and the possible consequences if you don't leave a tip.

Key Takeaways

- In most service-providing establishments in Canada, you'll be expected to tip 15% to 18% of the bill before tax.
- Tipping is commonly expected in places where you're offered personal services, but it's not as prevalent in locations where you order food to-go or pick up your order on the counter.

Is Tipping Mandatory or Customary in Canada?

While tipping is not mandatory in Canada, this practice is widely customary.

In contrast to some countries where you might only tip if you're extremely satisfied with the service, not leaving any tip, even for reasons such as receiving subpar service, can be seen as rude behaviour in Canada.

In fact, tipping is so prevalent that many restaurants automatically include a 15% to 18% gratuity charge on your bill if you're in a large group consisting of 8 or more people.

Tipping is seen as more of a custom practice rather than a reflection of your satisfaction in Canada. Hence, most workers in industries like restaurants, food delivery, bars, hotels, salons, and taxis that offer personal services will expect to receive a tip at the end of their service.

What is the Proper Tipping Etiquette in Canada?

The rule of thumb for tipping in Canada is that if someone provides a personal service for you, it's expected that you leave a tip at the end of that service, regardless of how impressed you are with their work.

The safest ballpark figure for tipping is to offer 15% to 18% of your bill before taxes. You can choose anywhere within this range based on the quality of service you actually received, but of course, you always have the option to tip more...or less.

Should You Tip Before or After Tax in Canada?

In Canada, you should apply your chosen tipping percentage to the bill amount before

