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Ask The Expert

BY ROBERT SCHORK PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 16, 2011 AT 12:00 PM

Q: How much should you tip the take-out delivery guy?

A: Westchester-based etiquette expert Melissa Leonard says the rule of thumb is to tip 10 percent of the bill before tax. However, if the meal is under \$10, “tip at least a dollar or two,” she advises. “And if a delivery person delivers your meal in extreme weather, you should give a gracious tip—fifteen to twenty percent.” If you pick up the food yourself, Leonard says that it’s not necessary to tip—unless they’ve gone the extra mile for your order. In such instances, Leonard advises giving a tip of up to 10 percent—the same amount she suggests leaving when dining at a buffet. “That’s the rule of thumb, to honor the fact that people set up and prepared the food and will clean up.”

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