

Do You Tip Movers?

I am moving my office today, and I was wondering whether I am supposed to tip the movers.

What is the standard, if anything?

If it matters, the total move will be about five hours. I moving from the second-story of one building to the first story of another.

I always do, especially if it's a tough job.

Bobby Lott

I don't know if there's a standard answer, but my thinking is if you tip a delivery driver or barber for 30 minutes of work, then I would tip the movers who are providing 5 hours of service. Plus, I tend to believe I'm blessed to be able to earn a good living and I like to thank people for a job well done, particularly people who are less well off.

As for a number, how many movers? I don't think \$20 a guy would be too much.

Ryan Ballard, Idaho

I've tipped my movers both times I've moved my office. Unfortunately I don't recall the amount nor a formula.

John Leonard, Connecticut

If it is 5 or 6 guys, maybe 10 apiece since the work is divided up more, but if its just two,

Prob 20 to 40 apiece.

Bobby Lott

When my wife and I moved our house, I bought all of the movers lunch at a local sub shop and then gave them an additional \$10 each. There were five guys and they did a really good job.

Frank J. Kautz, II, Massachusetts

SoloSez Popular Threads, April 2014

I was very glad I generously tipped the movers who moved my office last January when I unexpectedly needed to move again 3 months later.

I may have tipped them \$100 on a \$500 move. I think there were three guys.
Ellen Victor

You really can't go wrong tipping well, imo.

Bobby Lott

I would say yes. I always tip when I move (residential). I usually tip about \$20 per person helping with the move.

Laura Benetti

I have done several moves (military) and I will buy pizza and sodas but do not tip

Thank you

Maurleen Cobb<Texas

Yes I would tip them. I don't know any profession where you don't tip. Plus my reasoning is similar to Ryans.
When I moved my house it was a long move. I tipped 50\$ each for four guys.

Reena Gulati

YES. 15-20% They're moving heavy stuff around all day, and getting paid horribly for it, for the love of god.

Betsy Ehlen, Illinois

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Thanks everyone!

I agree. I guess my fear was that I tipped too low. I'm typically a pretty generous tipper, but I don't know the standard.

I think \$40 a head will do.

Cheers,

David Allen Hiersekorn, California

David, we moved our office last year. It is NYC, so it is likely different, but we were even informed of the suggested amount of the tip. Unfortunately, I don't recall the amount. I do recall it was a lot more than we were willing to tip. We tipped generously, but not nearly as generously as was recommended.

Kenneth S. Yudell, New York

When we moved (residential) last year we had 4 guys. I tipped them all, ranging from \$10 (to the guy who petered out and quit halfway through), \$20 to the other guys (including the one who replaced Mr. Couldn't Do It), to \$40 for the guy who was in charge.

Stephanie J. Hill

I always buy pizza at the start to get their cooperation. Tips depend on how much "above and beyond the call of duty" work they do cheerfully.

D.A. "Duke" Drouillard, Nebraska

As a mover in a prior life (between semesters), if you see they are getting it done efficiently, a definite yes. I do remember some difficult moves. Moving out of upstairs unit in the middle of a complex and into same in another on 100 degree summer day. Or moving a piano down a switchback stairway or a hide-a-bed out a second story window. Hard, sweaty work at times. But the worst part was moving a family out of a house where the kids' bedrooms were rat infested. I wanted to put the father into the dumpster and lock the lid.

Craig McLaughlin, California

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The last few times I have been involved with moves (my own, my father's, and my daughter's), I tipped based on factors such as whether there were stairs or an elevator, whether the movers could use dollies or had to carry items (and, if they needed to carry things, how far), etc.

Where there were separate packers involved, I also tipped them.

I think the amount was in the \$10 to \$20 per person range.

Brian H. Cole, California

You should tip; how much depends on how much they're moving.

When I moved my office, I rented a U-Haul truck, and had three guys thru a Temp agency; they were being paid just about minimum wage, whatever it was at the time; took about 6 hours, I drove the truck and helped with the moving; I also bought them lunch, just big soda's and Whoppers, and I tipped them \$50 each. Which may have been a bit on the high side, but they did good work.

The other thing is this; I'm in local business. While I don't want to be known as an extravagant tipper, I also don't want to be known as a cheapskate; the last thing I need is some waitress or some guy who helped me move saying to someone, Oh, that SOB lawyer, he's a skinflint, I (served him lunch, broke my back moving his crap) and he only tipped me whatever.

The flip side of it is, back in the late 70s I was the guy who had been hired thru temp agency (summer job) to help a couple of professional movers unload a household of furniture. I even helped move a Piano. Now it was an all day job, it involved a largish household worth of stuff; nonetheless, even then, the Pro movers gave me another \$50 over and above what I was getting from the Temp agency. (\$50 in 1979 was a VERY nice chunk of money, remember, gas was about 50 cents a gallon, chicken was 29 cents a lb).

Ronald Jones, Florida
