



Florida Department of Health- Pinellas

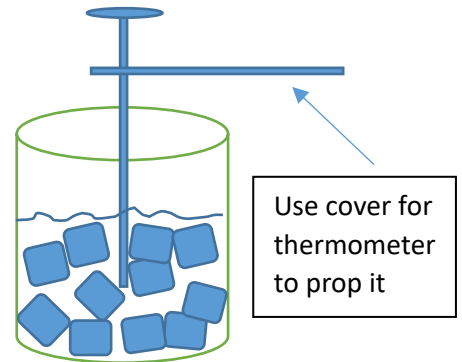
Calibrating Thermometers

Thermometers should be calibrated in accordance with manufacturer specifications using either the ice-point or boiling-point method. Newly purchased thermometers and thermometers that have been dropped should also be calibrated before use.

Ice-Point Method (Most commonly used method)

Step 1 Fill a large glass with crushed ice.
Add clean tap water until ice is fully covered.
Stir mixture well, let sit for one minute.

Step 2 Place thermometer in container.
Do not let the stem touch the sides
or the bottom of the container.
Keep thermometer in place for 30 seconds.



Step 3 For dial thermometers- hold the adjusting nut with a wrench and rotate the head of the thermometer until it reads 32°F.
For digital thermometers- press the reset button to adjust the readout (or check manufacturer's instructions for calibration of unit).

Boiling-Point Method (Boiling point of water differs with altitudes)

Step 1 Bring clean tap water to a boil in a deep pan.

Step 2 Place thermometer in pan.
Do not let the stem touch the sides
or the bottom of the pan.
Keep thermometer in place for 30 seconds.

Step 3 For dial thermometers- hold the adjusting nut with a wrench and rotate the head of thermometer until it reads 212°F.
For digital thermometers- press the reset button to adjust the readout (or check manufacturer's instructions for calibration of unit).

