

Calibrating Your Thermometer

Thermometers get bumped and jarred frequently, even if they are used correctly. This causes them to get out of adjustment. Calibrating thermometers needs to be done frequently to maintain accuracy. The Ice Point Method is described below:

Once a week, or after a thermometer is dropped:

1. Fill a glass with half ice and half water.
2. Place the thermometer in the glass and stir.
3. Allow the thermometer to stabilize (about 3 minutes).
4. If the thermometer reads between 30°F and 32°F it is to use.
5. If it doesn't, and has an adjustment nut (found on dial thermometers):

- leave the stem in the ice water and use pliers or a wrench to turn the nut until the needle on the dial points to 32°F;
- wait 3 minutes and see if it still reads 32°F;
- if it does not, adjust the nut until it does.

6. If the thermometer cannot be adjusted and does not read 32°F, it should be thrown away and replaced.

Consult the manufacturer's directions for thermometers with digital readouts and thermocouples. A thermometer which reads 0° - 220°F is recommended.

