Calibrating a Thermometer

Thermometers should be calibrated regularly to ensure accurate temperatures.

The ice-point method is the most widely used method to calibrate a dial and digital thermometer.

Fill a large container with crushed ice, and then add clean cold tap water until container is full. Stir.

Place the thermometer stem/probe into the ice water. Make sure the thermometer is not touching bottom or sides of the glass. Hold the thermometer by its top for 30 seconds or until the reading stays steady.

Adjust the thermometer to 32°F (0°C)

- Dial thermometers: With the thermometer still in the ice water, use a wrench to securely hold the nut below dial head, (the thermometer sleeve may be equipped with an internal wrench) then rotate the thermometer until the needle points to 32°F (0°C).

- Digital thermometers: With the thermometer still in the ice water, push the reset button and adjust to read 32°F. If there is no reset or calibration button, try changing the battery or replacing the thermometer.