

Calibrating a thermometer

Cold Procedure:

Fill a cup full of ice and then fill with water. Wait a minute for the temperature to stabilize. Stick the thermometer into the ice water.

Your thermometer should read 32°F or 0°C if not adjust as needed.

Hot procedure:

Place distilled water in a pot and bring it to a rolling boil. Check the temperature. It should be 212°F or 100°C.

NOTE: Water boils at less than 212°F at high altitudes. Each 500 foot increase in altitude causes a drop of about 1° in the boiling point.

Approximate Boiling Temperatures of Water

Altitude	Temperature
Sea Level	212°F
984 ft.	210°F
2,000 ft.	208°F
3,000 ft.	206°F
5,000 ft.	203°F
7,500 ft.	198°F
10,000 ft.	194°F
20,000 ft.	178°F
26,000 ft.	168°F

If you are using a dial type thermometer and it can be calibrated you will find a small nut on the back bezel at the top of the probe. Turn this gently to adjust your the meter. If you are using a digital thermometer you must read the instructions to calibrate - they are all different.