



# Using a Food Thermometer

Your food thermometer deserves a starring role in your kitchen. The only sure way of knowing if meat, poultry, fish, egg dishes and other foods have reached a high enough temperature to kill bacteria in these foods is to use a food thermometer. Check the internal temperature of the food itself before you taste or serve it. The thermometer must be in the right place in the food, placed in the thickest part of the food away from the bone, fat or gristle. And the thermometer must be accurate so you know just what the true temperature is.

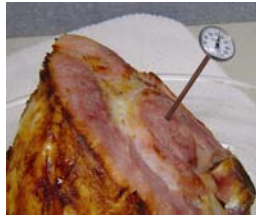
## Safe Cooking Temperatures

<b>Raw Food</b>	<b>Internal Temperature</b>
<b>Ground Products</b>	
Hamburger	160°F
Beef, veal, lamb, and pork	160°F
Chicken and turkey	165°F
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<b>Beef, Veal, Lamb – Roasts and Steaks</b>	
<i>medium-rare</i>	145°F
<i>medium</i>	160°F
<i>well-done</i>	170°F
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<b>Pork</b>	
Chops, roasts, ribs	
<i>medium</i>	160°F
<i>well-done</i>	170°F
Ham, fresh (raw)	160°F
Ham, pre-cooked (to reheat)	140°F
Sausage, fresh	160°F
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<b>Poultry</b>	
Chicken & Turkey, whole	180°F
Poultry breasts, roast	170°F
Poultry thighs, wings	180°F
Duck & Goose	180°F
Stuffing (cooked alone or in bird)	165°F
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<b>Eggs</b>	
Fried, poached	<i>Yolk &amp; white are firm</i>
Casseroles	160°F
Sauces, custards	160°F
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<b>Leftovers &amp; Casseroles</b>	165°F
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Adapted from **Fight BAC!**® Four Simple Steps to Food Safety, Partnership For Food Safety Education and **Thermy**™ Use A Food Thermometer, FSIS-USDA.

## Taking A Correct Temperature

- **Be clean!**  
Make sure the thermometer and its case remain clean.
- **Before and after each use -**  
Wash, rinse, sanitize and air dry thermometers to avoid contamination. You can sanitize with 1 teaspoon of bleach diluted in one quart of water.
- **Aim for the center!**  
Take food temperatures in the center or thickest part of food, away from bone, fat or gristle.

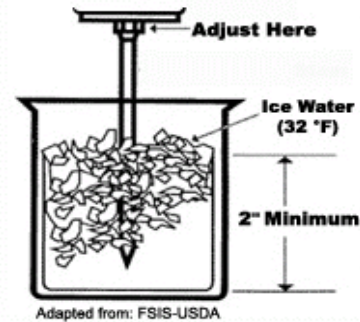


- **Place it far enough into the food.**  
Put the tip of the thermometer in the food, making sure you get it in deep enough to be accurate. See what your thermometer says about how far to insert it or look for a "dimple" or "ring" on the stem.
- **Be patient!**  
Wait for the needle to stop moving or the numbers on a digital readout to stop changing.
- **Be accurate!**  
Check to make sure your thermometer is accurate every now and then, and especially after a lot of use with big temperature changes (from hot food to cold food, back to hot, etc.). Always check again if it has been dropped.

**See the temperature chart on the other side for minimum safe temperatures.**

## Calibrate!

**Be sure to check the accuracy of your thermometer before taking food temperatures**



- **Make it mostly ice.**  
Fill a large glass with ice and cover with water. Make it deep enough to stick the whole sensing area (tip) of the thermometer into the middle of it.
- **Cover the stem.**  
Insert the thermometer at least 2 inches into the mixture. Make sure the tip does not touch the side or bottom of the glass.
- **Be patient.**  
Wait until the temperature reading stops changing. Once you think it has stopped, make sure it stays the same for at least 30 seconds.
- **Be correct.**  
The temperature should read 32 °F.
- **Adjust if needed.**
  - If your *dial thermometer* needs correcting, turn the calibrating nut or adjusting bar under the dial or face until it does read 32. Keep the stem under ice while you do this.
  - If your *digital thermometer* needs correcting, use the buttons provided. If it cannot be adjusted, try a new battery or buy a new one.