

	Min/Max Thermometer Information Sheet	Effective:	February 06, 2006
		Originator	T. J. Kendrick
		Last Updated	February 06, 2006
		Updated by	T. J. Kendrick

1. Purpose:

To familiarize people with the proper placement, use and disposal of thermometers.

2. Scope:

These guidelines apply to all faculty, staff and students on campus.

3. Procedure

Proper placement of thermometers in animal facilities is important to obtain accurate measurements and avoid mercury spills from thermometers containing mercury. Below are guidelines for mounting, storage and use of min/max thermometers.

Acceptable Mounting Locations

- On the wall:
 - Opposite supply vent(s)
 - Where it will not be hit by cage rack.
 - In a location where it can be easily read
 - Eye level (approximately 4' - 5' above floor)
- On the door if secured properly and protected from damage

Thermometer storage and safety

Store thermometers upright to avoid separation of liquid within the tubes. Protect thermometers from impact and damage. If you still are using mercury filled thermometers, make sure all personnel are properly trained in responding to a mercury spill. Units are encouraged to replace mercury column thermometers with thermometers containing non-mercury based materials.

Correcting Separation of Liquid in the Columns

Occasionally a thermometer arrives with a separation of the liquid in the columns due to rough handling in transit.

Since the liquid in the “u” shaped tubing is allowed to slide back and forth to record high and low temperatures, firmly grasp the thermometer at the top of the case with the bottom of the ”u” extending towards the floor. Lift the thermometer overhead, and then swiftly swing it downward. The downward swing consolidates the liquid in both sides of the tube.

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If swinging the thermometer downward does not consolidate the liquid, put the thermometer under warm water with the bottom of the “u” extending into the water to press the air bubbles upward, thus allowing them to escape above the columns of liquid.

Resetting the Minimum/Maximum Set Points

If there is a reset button, push the button to reset the min/max markers on the top of the liquid columns in each tube arm.

For mercury column thermometers: If there is no reset button and magnet is included with the thermometer, use the small magnet to reset the min/max markers on the top of the liquid columns in each tube arm.

Documentation and Record Retention

Each animal unit should establish their own standard operating procedures (SOPs) for monitoring daily temperatures.

Using the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) guidelines, each animal unit should establish acceptable temperature ranges for each species and a procedure to alert staff to temperature problems within the facility.

Mercury Spill Cleanup

- Spill procedures should be posted or readily available.
- Personnel should be trained in spill procedures.
- Refer to [SafetyWeb #00](#), “Guidelines for Mercury Spill Control” for more information.

Disposal of Thermometers

Double bag all pieces, label as hazardous waste, dispose as hazardous waste. See [SafetyWeb #00](#), “Guidelines for Disposal of Chemical Waste” for more information.