# Waco-McLennan County Public Health District Environmental Health Division

225 West Waco Drive Waco, Texas 76707 (254) 750-5464



# **THERMOMETERS**

**Temperature control is one of the best ways to protect your food!** The temperature measuring device may be a thermometer, thermistor, thermocouple, or other device that indicates the temperature of food, air or water. Stems or sensors may not be constructed of glass unless the sensors are encased in a shatterproof covering.

Thermometers must be...

- Maintained and calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's intended use of range.
- Easily readable.
- Placed in the warmest location in a cold hold unit, or the coolest location in a hot hold unit.
- Each unit must have at least one integral or permanently affixed thermometer.

Infrared thermometers are not acceptable for food, air or water temperatures. They only measure surface temperatures, not air or internal food temperatures.









Hot Hold Unit

#### **Food Thermometers**

- Food thermometers must be readily accessible.
- Food thermometers must be accurate to 2°F and must be in 2°F increments on the scale.
- Food thermometers must measure the internal temperature of the food.
- The thermometer probe must be suitable to measure thin products. A thermometer is acceptable if the probe can be inserted into the product so that there is an equal amount of food surrounding the temperature sensing point, and if the temperature sensing point is at or near the tip of the probe.

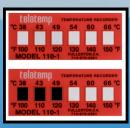
### **Air & Water Thermometers**

- Food thermometers are not acceptable for air temperatures unless fitted with an air probe.
- Time temperature indicators, which come in various temperature zones, will show if the air temperature goes outside the acceptable ranges.
- Air and water thermometers must be accurate to 3°F and must be in 2°F increments on the scale.
- Air and water thermometers are designed for hot hold and cold hold units.



Digital Hot or Cold Food





Time Temperature Indicator

## **Things to Note**

DOES THE THERMOMETER WORK?

Is it visible and secured to the unit? Are you using the right thermometer for the job?

If you have questions, we can help you! We sell refrigerator/freezer thermometers for \$2.50 each.