

VALENCIA COLLEGE

Chemistry

Lab Technique 18: Measuring Temperature

A thermometer is used to measure the temperature or temperature changes with a high level of precision. The most common thermometer found in the chemistry laboratory is the Celsius thermometer. Sometimes Kelvin thermometers are available.

Liquid-in-glass thermometer:

These usually contain red alcohol.
Never shake the thermometer.



Place the thermometer in the sample. Make sure that the bulb portion is submerged in the sample, and that it is not touching the walls or base of the container.



Once the reading has stabilized, read and record the measurement to the proper number of significant figures.



Remove. Wash with deionized water and dry it before returning to its storage location.

Fragile: treat with care. Be careful that it does not roll off the bench.

Clean up a broken red alcohol thermometer using proper precautions when dealing with broken glass.

Digital thermometer:

These have a digital readout.

No need to shake the thermometer. Place the thermometer in the sample.

Once the reading has stabilized, read and record the measurement to the proper number of significant figures.

Remove. Wash with deionized water and dry it before returning to its storage location.