

Dear BWN member!

Here are some tips to help insure your BWN thermometer is giving you accurate readings.

If you are using a high/low mercury thermometer, be sure to shake it to reset the mercury thermometer per manufactures instructions after taking the morning readings. Sometimes mercury separation can occur and will give false readings if not properly reset.

If you are using a digital thermometer, check the batteries periodically. The NWS recommends once per year. If you don't have a voltmeter, just replace the batteries annually as you would with your smoke detector. If you have a wireless unit, be sure to use Lithium batteries in the sensor unit. Alkaline batteries are not good for temperatures below 4 degrees F. Remember to reset the unit after observing the morning readings!

Wired or wireless digital units are prone to give false readings in near-field RF. The interference can enter the unit through the cables, get rectified, sampled and digitized as a temperature signal. Check to be sure your thermometer and cables are not routed next to your radio or computers or monitor.

If possible, keep your thermometer on the north side of the house a minimum of 6 inches from the house siding and shielded from the sun at all times of the day. If that is not possible, have the sensor unit covered by a double walled sunshade. The inner shield will help prevent infrared radiation from the external shield from reaching the sensor. Keep in mind that false readings can still occur because the thermometer will sense heat or cold from the house.

If you are thinking about buying a digital thermometer, be aware that some may not give accurate readings below 14 degrees F. Check the specifications.

Here are some recommended models:

Oregon Scientific model MTR101 (\$29.95)

<http://www.weatherconnection.com/product.asp?invky=902>

Radio Shack model 63-1026 (\$39.99) wireless w/low battery monitor

Radio Shack model 63-1033 (\$24.99)

<http://www.radioshack.com/>

Hope you find these tips useful!

73,

Don
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