

General Instructions for Taking a pH

Please refer to the instruction manual and quick reference page from the pH meter manufacturer for specific instructions.

For a video showing pH meter calibration, visit go.ncsu.edu/HACCP-pH

Calibration

- Open electrode (usually will need to pop a cap or turn the top to expose). This may not apply to some meters.
- Clear out previous pH slope (may only pertain to some meters)
- Rinse with deionized water into a waste beaker
- Blot with a Kimwipe
- Place electrode into pH 4.0 buffer until it stabilizes (may have to confirm or enter once it stabilizes)
- Rinse with deionized water into a waste beaker
- Blot with a Kimwipe
- Place electrode into pH 7.0 buffer until it stabilizes (may have to confirm or enter once it stabilizes)
- A slope should be displayed at this time. Be sure slope is within designated range. If not, recalibrate.
- Rinse with deionized water into a waste beaker
- Blot with Kimwipe
- Now you are ready to take pH of a sample!

Homogeneous Products - Ex: Yogurt

- Empty some product into a small container (optional)
- Submerge bottom of probe into the product. Be sure that the probe is not touching the bottom of the container and is completely covered by product.
- Slowly stir pH meter until pH is stabilized
- After taking the reading, rinse with deionized or distilled water into a waste container. Be sure that no clumps are caught underneath the plastic guard.
- Blot with Kimwipe

Heterogeneous Products - Ex: Sushi Rice

- Mash up product, adding small amounts of deionized or distilled water as needed until a thin paste is made. Take pH in container product was mashed/blended in.
- Submerge bottom of probe into the product. Be sure that the probe is not touching the bottom of the container and is completely covered by product.
- Slowly stir pH meter in product paste until pH is stabilized (may be a bit difficult with rice)
- After taking the reading, rinse with deionized or distilled water into a waste container. Be sure that no clumps are caught underneath the plastic guard.
- Blot with Kimwipe



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