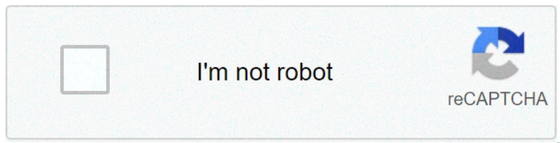

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Are forehead infrared thermometers accurate

When your child is sick, determining whether or not a fever is present — and how high it might be — can help you decide whether you can treat the issue yourself or need to consult with your doctor. Several different types of thermometers can effectively take a temperature, but you'll get the quickest, easiest reading from a forehead thermometer. A forehead thermometer uses infrared technology to measure the heat emitted by the temporal artery in the forehead. Most models require gently pressing the probe to the temple to get a reading, but there are also noncontact models that only require holding the thermometer a couple of inches from the forehead. But if you want to be sure that you're getting accurate temperature readings, it's important to choose the right forehead thermometer. That means deciding whether you want a thermometer that can be used multiple ways, how quickly you need your reading, and what other features will make the thermometer as easy as possible to use. Fortunately, our helpful guide has all the tips, tricks, and product recommendations you need to take the confusion out of shopping for the perfect forehead thermometer. Key considerationsContact vs. Noncontact Contact forehead thermometers that require you to press a probe tip to the forehead or temple are typically more accurate than noncontact models. Contact models usually provide faster readings, too. They're also an ideal option for taking your own temperature. Noncontact forehead thermometers, however, are less likely to disturb a sleeping child, because you only have to hold it 1 to 6 inches from the forehead and scan it across the forehead to get a reading. Also, minimal disinfection is needed if you're using the thermometer for multiple people, because there's no actual contact with the skin. Multifunction thermometer vs. single-function thermometer While all forehead thermometers can provide a temperature reading via the forehead, some models actually allow you to take readings in other ways as well. You can find thermometers with both forehead and ear modes, so you're able to scan the forehead or insert the probe into the ear canal to take a temperature. Ear temperature readings can sometimes be more accurate, but inserting the probe into the ear isn't advised for newborns and can disturb children who are sleeping. With a multifunction thermometer, you can switch between the two temperature-taking modes depending on your needs. Did you know?Some forehead thermometers have a connected app that allows you to keep track of users' temperatures on your smartphone, so it's easier to provide accurate information to your doctor. STAFFBestReviewsSpeed of response When you're not feeling well or you're taking a squirming child's temperature, you want a forehead thermometer that can provide a temperature reading as quickly as possible. Some models need as little as one second to provide a reading, while others may take up to ten seconds to display a temperature. It's important to keep in mind that a longer response time can often mean a more accurate reading, though, so you may want to sacrifice speed for greater accuracy. Backlit display To be able to clearly read a detected temperature, it's important to choose a forehead thermometer with a large, easy-to-read display. However, if you want to be able to read temperatures in low lighting or even in the dark, opt for a model with a backlit display to provide enough illumination to easily see the numbers no matter how dark the room is. Auto-shutoff Forehead thermometers rely on batteries, which can run out quickly if you forget to turn the thermometer off after taking a temperature. Some models are equipped with an auto-shutoff feature, though, to prolong your battery's life. In most cases, the thermometer automatically shuts itself off if it isn't touched in ten to 30 seconds. Fever alert To make monitoring for fevers even easier, some forehead thermometers feature a fever alert to let you know when the detected temperature is above the normal reading. A model may offer a visual alert on the screen, provide an audible alert by beeping, or use both types of alerts. Memory function Some forehead thermometers offer a memory function, which stores previous temperature readings for future reference. This allows you to keep track of trends in the readings, so you know if your child's temperature is going up or coming down. Some models allow you to store up to 20 temperatures at a time. Age and temperature technology A normal temperature reading can differ depending on a person's age, particularly for babies and the elderly. Some forehead thermometers allow you to enter a user's age, so it can instantly tell you if the temperature is in a dangerous range for that particular person. Forehead thermometer pricesInexpensive: The most affordable forehead thermometers are usually models that require contact with the forehead to register a reading, take five or more seconds to read a temperature, and don't offer much in the way of special features. They typically range from $10 to $20 and are a good option if you've never used a forehead thermometer before and want a basic model to get started with. Mid-range: Forehead thermometers that don't require contact with the forehead are usually a bit more expensive, but they can provide readings in as little as three seconds and offer special features like a fever alert, auto-shutoff, and memory function. They usually cost between $20 and $35 and are an ideal choice if you want one that works as efficiently as possible. Expensive: Ranging from $35 to $60, the most expensive forehead thermometers don't require contact with the forehead and also allow you to take a temperature with an ear probe. They can provide a reading in as little as a second and offer a variety of special features, including a fever alert, auto-shutoff, memory function, and age and temperature technology. Did you know?Some forehead thermometers require you to scan the thermometer across the entire forehead to get a reading, while others simply call for you to place the thermometer in the center and hold it there.STAFFBestReviews Always read the instructions that come with your forehead thermometer carefully before using it. Each model may have different safety precautions. Before using a forehead thermometer, check that the forehead is clean and dry. Dirt and moisture on the skin may affect the reading. Make sure that the user has been inside the house for at least 30 minutes before using a forehead thermometer. Exposure to extreme heat or cold outdoors may alter your body temperature temporarily. For the best results, both the user and the forehead thermometer should be exposed to the same ambient temperature for approximately ten minutes before taking a temperature. Contact forehead thermometers are usually easier to use when you're taking your own temperature. Q. How accurate are forehead thermometers? A. A forehead thermometer usually provides readings that are one-half to 1 degree lower than an oral thermometer would. However, because a forehead model provides its readings by measuring the heat from the temporal artery in the forehead, and arterial temperature is often the most accurate indicator of body temperature, many medical professionals feel forehead thermometers provide highly accurate results. Q. Is it necessary to sanitize a forehead thermometer? A. While a forehead thermometer only comes into contact with the forehead, it's still possible for germs to be present on the skin. To avoid passing germs between members of your family, wipe down the probe or sensor area of the thermometer with an alcohol wipe after each use. If you have a noncontact model that doesn't require the sensor to touch the skin, it's a good idea to clean the probe anyway because accidental contact can occur. Q. What type of batteries do forehead thermometers use? A. It varies from model to model. However, most forehead thermometers require either two AAA or AA batteries. Are you looking to buy an infrared thermometer? These handy tools can prove helpful in a number of situations.Medical professionals, engineers, and some mechanics use infrared thermometers in their daily work.Infrared thermometers are used by some home cooks to measure how hot a pan is when cooking foods that require precise temperatures.Homeowners can also use an infrared thermometer to pinpoint areas of the home that may need some extra insulation.An infrared thermometer works by bouncing an infrared beam off an object and measuring the heat differential. Below, you'll find an outline of the elements to consider when shopping for an infrared thermometer. We've also included information on pricing and the best ways to use an infrared thermometer around the home. When you're ready to buy, please consider our highlighted infrared thermometers. We're happy to endorse all of them after careful product research and customer reviews.Ways to use an infrared thermometerThe advantage of an infrared thermometer is that you don't need to be up close to an object to measure its surface temperature. You can accurately measure items from a safe distance, thereby minimizing the danger of an accidental burn.In the kitchenA cook might use an infrared thermometer for the following purposes.To check the surface temperature of oils, pans, foods, etc.To verify the temperature of food storage spacesTo assess temperature before baking bread or the preparation of other temperature-sensitive foodsHome useInfrared thermometers are not just for professionals. Homeowners and others can use them for the following reasons.To find areas of poor insulation in a home or structureTo detect air leaks in a home or structureTo assist in at-home mechanical fixesTo measure body temperatures of humans and animalsProfessional useVarious professionals use infrared thermometers on the job.Heating and cooling professionals use infrared thermometers for evaluations and equipment checks.Food workers use infrared thermometers to ensure temperatures meet prescribed safety standards.Electricians use infrared thermometers to check for hot spots and other potential issues.Mechanics use infrared thermometers to check for overheating, among other things.Medical professionals use infrared thermometers to measure body temperature.Firefighters use infrared thermometers to locate hot spots after a fire.Questions to ask when choosing an infrared thermometerIf you've found a particular infrared thermometer you like, try to find the answers to these questions before you buy it.What is the temperature range of the infrared thermometer? An infrared thermometer with a larger temperature range has a higher number of applications. Not everyone needs an infrared thermometer to detect hot spots; some infrared thermometers allow for the measurement of very cold temperatures. In other words, it's not just high-end temperatures that matter for some users. Low-end temperatures are important, too.In general, you'll find infrared thermometers have a temperature range of around -50°C to 500°C. Pricier models geared toward professionals may provide an even higher temperature range.Did you know?Some infrared thermometers have two lasers to help frame the space that you are measuring.STAFFBestReviewsTwo aspects can affect the accuracy of an infrared thermometer: distance-to-spot ratio (D/S) and emissivity.Distance-to-spot ratio is a figure that lets you know what surface area an infrared thermometer can measure and from how far away. A D/S of 14:1, for instance, means that the thermometer can measure a one-inch wide area up to 14 inches away. The farther you move from the target in question, the less accurate your reading will be.That said, getting close up doesn't necessarily translate to a higher degree of accuracy. Essentially, the D/S figure lets you know the optimum distance for an accurate reading."The most common D/S ratio for infrared thermometers is 12:1."STAFFBestReviewsEmissivity has to do with an object's reflectivity. When you use an infrared thermometer, you're directing a beam of light at an object. You can't see it, but that's mainly how this kind of device works.Your reading can be affected by an object's emissivity, which is basically how reflective it is. If you're attempting to read the surface temperature of a shiny stainless steel pan, for instance, you'll likely get an inaccurate reading because the pan is not very emissive.Many infrared thermometers allow you to adjust for emissivity in the event that you must measure an object with low emissivity that cannot absorb the light emitted by the device.Quality doesn't deviate with price too much when it comes to infrared thermometers.Most homeowners don't need to spend more than $80 to $100 for a good one.Professionals who require more precision when measuring should opt for an infrared thermometer with reliable accuracy. These infrared thermometers will likely cost over $100.TipsCalibrate your infrared thermometer before using it to ensure accuracy.The durability and construction of an infrared thermometer matters, especially for people who use this tool on a daily basis for work.Take note of the battery type required for a particular infrared thermometer before you buy it.An infrared thermometer can provide surface temperature readings but cannot give you interior temperature readings. That's why you should never use an infrared thermometer to measure the internal temperature of meat or other cooked foods.If you plan to measure the temperature of reflective objects, choose a thermometer that can be adjusted for emissivity.FAQQ. Can I use an infrared thermometer to check the temperature of meat I'm cooking?A. No. You need a meat thermometer for that. Infrared thermometers can tell you the temperature on the surface of the meat but not the temperature inside the meat. Relying on an infrared thermometer to check the interior temperature of meat is an unsafe practice.Q. What's the laser for? Does it measure heat?A. No. The laser's function is merely to help you direct the thermometer. It does not help measure heat in any way.Q. How do I use an infrared thermometer?A. Most infrared thermometers sold for home use function in a point-and-shoot manner. Simply point the thermometer at the object you want to measure and click to get a reading. The laser that emits from the device helps guide you as you point and shoot.Q. Why would I use an infrared thermometer to check the temperature of my pan when cooking?A. That's a good question. Some might find using this kind of device in the kitchen to be a bit of overkill. But an infrared thermometer is actually a useful tool that can help novice cooks familiarize themselves with cooking temperatures. Stove top knobs don't provide exact temperature control, so an infrared thermometer takes the guesswork out of temperature adjustment when using a pan to sear, fry, or sauté.Many cooks tend to overheat their pans, which damages them and leads to overcooking. An infrared thermometer can provide you with some guidance and help make you a better cook. are infrared forehead thermometers accurate for adults

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