

Bumps in the Night!!!!

Tools of the Trade

Thermometers

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One of the tools that we use for every investigation is a thermometer. A thermometer is a tool that gives us the ability to take temperature readings during an investigation. This tool is used at: the beginning of an investigation to take baseline readings of the location; during the investigation to see if we have any changes to the baseline readings; and at the end of the investigation to see if we have any changes to the baseline readings.

Why is documenting the temperature important?

Another theory in the paranormal field is that an entity will use the energy around them to manifest (form), thus taking energy out of the air which lowers the temperature around them. A very common report from clients are "hot" or "cold" spots. However, before you can tell if a temperature reading experienced is paranormal you have to know what the location's normal temperature readings are. Therefore we take these readings as part of our setup and document them for future reference.

These readings can be in the form of ambient (air), surface, or object temperatures. The most common being the ambient temperature. In my opinion, taking ambient temperature readings provides you with

the most useful temperature related data on an investigation.

As we take these readings we observe the location and see if there are natural causes why it may be hot or cold in this particular spot. Is there an air vent nearby? Is a nearby window open, broken, leaking air, etc.? Is there another cause for the temperature change?

The initial and closing readings are documented in the case log. Additionally, all known causes for temperature fluctuations are noted. Before we start the investigation the team is made away of the findings.

These findings are also shared with the client as part of the reveal. The purpose for that is to provide the client with some answers for activity that is from a natural source and not a paranormal one.

Which thermometer do I buy?

Well that depends on the type of temperature reading you want to document. For ambient readings a Mel-Meter, Kestrel, or a data logger are your best options. If you want to see these readings real time the Mel-meter (see photo above) is your best bet, since it can do Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMFs) at the same time. If you want the data recorded automatically at periodic intervals then the data logger is best for that, but these results can be seen at the recording time, but rather later on after the investigation is complete. For surface readings a laser thermometer works best (see photo to the right). For an object reading, either nearby or in the distance, a thermal thermometer is best. Sometimes this type of thermometer is combined with video capabilities, such as with the Flir. If you can only afford one thermometer then you can't go wrong with the Mel-Meter...you'll get the most bang for your buck!

