

Consumer Reports Magazine

Oral thermometers are tops for temps

Flu season is on the way, as is a “burning” question for coughers and sneezers: Which type of fever thermometer is best? We asked 24 adults and 21 children ages 5 to 14 to test eight oral, ear, and forehead thermometers and found:

- The oral ones proved best overall.
- Price and performance don’t correlate. The best cost less than \$15. A \$40 children’s ear thermometer was only fair.
- Simple as thermometers are, some have bells and whistles--beeps that tell you when they’re in the right spot or when they’re finished, or soft or curved tips--that can add to convenience.

We based our Ratings primarily on precision, or how widely the thermometers’ results varied from those of our control, the Geratherm Mercury-free Oral thermometer, whose accuracy we verified.

