

How to Calibrate a Digital Pocket Scale without Weights

Step 1. Cleaning

Make sure that the pocket scale is completely clean. There are many things that can make it difficult for the scale to zero. Many times you may not even be able to see what is affecting the scale. First wash the scale with water and then use acetone or ethanol. Allow the scale to completely dry, normally about 20 minutes.

Step 2. Zero

You want to reset the scale so that it is at zero. Do this with absolutely nothing on the scale. Once the scale is properly zeroed, you can go about calibrating it properly. If the scale is not zeroing properly then ensure that it is on a completely level surface. Sometimes if there is air flow over the scale this can also cause a problem. Choose the location of the scale carefully. It may take up for a minute for the scale to zero, so be patient.

Step 3. Find the Calibration Weight

The calibration weight for the pocket scale will be found in the manual. You want to find something that is close to that weight. If you do not have the manual then check under the scale as the manual can be printed on the bottom. If not then look in a supply catalog or contact the company. If you do not use similar weights then you cannot properly calibrate the scale. Normally this weight will be a range from a small number to a larger number, such as 1 gram to 100 grams.

Step 4. Use Nickels

Most pocket scales will use grams for its weight. Nickels are a great object to use as each nickel weighs 5 grams. So if you need a weight of 50 grams for calibration use 10 nickels. It is important that the nickels are clean otherwise it can affect your calibration weight.

Step 5. Calibration

Press the calibration button and place the appropriate number of nickels on the scale. Normally calibration can take some time and the digital readout will flash when calibrating. You may need to put several weights on depending on the scale. Make sure you have the appropriate amount of nickels out beforehand. If you do not immediately put on the next weight then the calibration may not work.

Step 6. Check the Calibration

Once you have calibrated the scale you want to check it. Turn the scale off and wait about a minute. Turn the scale on again and weigh another object of which the weight is known. Many kitchen food products will have the weight set on the container. If the scale reads the correct weight or within the error, also noted in the manual, then your calibration is correct.