

## 6 Steps for Testing Dial-Gauge Canners

Links to important information are on the **Extension Safe & Healthy Food** web page (see **Canner Testing & Food Preservation page**): <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/safefood/>

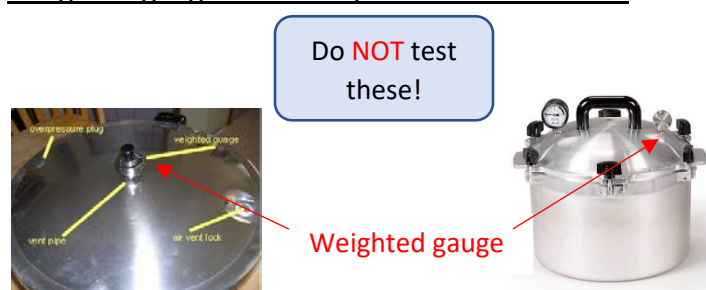
**NOTE:** Presto offers free calibration of dial gauges for consumers. Consumers should contact Presto directly: 715-839-2121. This can be an excellent alternative if a county office does not provide canner dial gauge testing.

- 1. Have the master gauge calibrated.** Presto Industries (Eau Claire, WI; 715-839-2121) offers free calibration for master gauges. A sample letter requesting calibration services is [available](#). Master gauges must be calibrated every year before use.
- 2. Prepare dial gauge testing report form to use.** The UW-Extension canner tester report **must be used**; it includes proper liability language. **BEFORE** making copies of the document, **edit the footer** with the name of the county, e.g. ...*In consideration of the **Dane** County Extension Office....and **Dane** County and.....* A master copy of the form [is here](#).
- 3. Prepare the 'Quick Tips for Safe Preserving' handout for consumers** and make copies. At the bottom of the page, include contact phone and email information for a local educator in case of follow-up questions. Please [ask colleagues](#) before listing their name and contact info!
- 4. Staff the service.** Pressure canner gauge testing is under the supervision of a **trained Extension educator/staff or trained volunteer**. Individuals may have been trained in-person or they are considered trained if they have reviewed the **University of California video**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KONjS\\_cJdFY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KONjS_cJdFY) or [here](#). Colleagues may be able to assist.
- 5. Test dial gauges.** **Dial gauges on** pressure canners should be tested **each year** against a calibrated 'master' gauge. **Weighted gauges on canners are not** tested, they do not go out of calibration. The All-American canner (pictured on the far right) is a **weighted gauge canner and should not** be tested with the Presto gauge tester.

Dial gauge canner



Weighted gauge canner lid/All American canner



Note: The **Presto Testing unit** is used to test gauges for **National, Magic Seal, Maid of Honor** and **Presto** brand canners **only**. The All American canner is a weighted gauge canner with a reference gauge; do not use the Presto testing unit on an All American canner.

6. **Complete and sign the dial gauge report. Affix a sticker to the canner lid.** The educator/staff doing the testing completes and signs the **dial gauge canner testing report**. The consumer must sign the report. Give **the original copy** of the report to the consumer and **keep a second copy** in the county office for 1 year, until the start of the next canning season.

**A sticker** with the results of the gauge testing **must be placed** directly on the canner lid or on the top of the dial-gauge housing. Sticker template using Avery 5160 return address labels is [here](#).

**Call Barb with questions 608-263-7383.** Updated March 2022.

DATE: _____
Recipe says: 6 lbs            11 lbs
Your gauge should read:
___ lbs            ___ lbs