
8 Handling the Instrument

The chamber housing is very robust and should withstand even the roughest abuse. However, the delicate sensors are exposed when the calibration lid is removed. Care should be taken to avoid touching the chromel/constantan junctions mounted in the chamber well. Aside from temperature gradients, thermocouple contamination is the most important source of error in the psychrometric determination of water potential. [Diagnosing a dirty thermocouple](#) and eliminating this hazard is discussed in detail in [Cleaning the Psychrometer](#).