

TI Graphing Calculator Care

The proper maintenance and care for TI graphing calculators will help ensure the highest quality of performance – whether you use them each day in class or bring them out of storage for student use on state and standardized testing.

TI recommends beginning the following graphing calculator operation and test preparation steps at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled test date.

TI Graphing Calculator Operation Checklist

Confirm Working Condition

- Gather all school-owned graphing calculators in order to inspect each unit.
- After storing your handhelds for the summer, ensure that you have access to new batteries at the start of the school year and prior to the start of testing.
- Turn on the graphing calculator.
- The screen may appear blank. Adjust the contrast darker and/or lighter. To adjust the contrast, press and release the [2nd] key. Then press the up arrow (darker) and/or down arrow (lighter). Repeat as necessary.
- Consider asking students to inspect their own graphing calculators.

Battery Replacement

- Do not mix batteries: rechargeable and non-rechargeable, new and used, types or brands.
- Do not remove both the graphing calculator's "AAA" and lithium batteries at the same time. The round lithium (or button) battery provides auxiliary power while "AAA" batteries are being replaced. This will protect data stored in the unit's memory.
- Install the four (4) "AAA" batteries according to polarity (+,-) diagrams.

Reset Options

If a graphing calculator remains in non-working condition after inspection and battery replacement, it may need to be reset.

Reset option 1:

- Remove all four (4) "AAA" batteries.
- Press and hold the [ON] key for 30 seconds.
- Then put the batteries back into the graphing calculator and turn on.
- The screen's contrast may also need to be re-adjusted (see **Confirm Working Condition**).

Reset option 2:

- Remove all of the batteries including the round backup/lithium battery for five minutes. After the five minute period, reinsert all of the batteries and turn the calculator on. Adjust the contrast if necessary.

Reset option 3:

- This option requires that you reinstall the operating system on the graphing calculator.
- Remove one of the AAA batteries.
- Press and hold the DEL key. While holding DEL, reinsert the AAA battery and then turn the calculator on.
- The calculator should display "*Waiting...Please install calculator software now*".
- Follow the instructions for the TI-83 Plus, TI-83 Plus Silver Edition or the TI-84 Plus Family to reinstall the calculator operating system.

Troubleshooting Tips & Support

- Log onto support.education.ti.com.
- E-mail ti-cares@ti.com.
- Call **1.800.TI.CARES** – Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. CST; Friday 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. CST.

TI Graphing Calculator Test Preparation

Press-to-Test Key Sequence

Use special key sequence to temporarily disable applications (Apps), programs and other files that may not be allowed on graphing calculators during testing. Similar to the [2nd-MEM-Reset] option, the Press-to-Test key sequence is the fastest way to configure student calculators on the day of an exam. Apps and programs can be quickly restored.

The Press-to-Test key sequence works on TI-84 Plus family models running operating system 2.40 and later versions.

- Power [OFF] the graphing calculator.
- Press and hold these three keys simultaneously: Left arrow, right arrow and [ON] button.
- The Reset Options screen will appear on screen.
- By default, the angle mode is set to Degree and Stat Diagnostics are on.
- Press OK. The “Reset Complete” screen displays the options you have selected.

Choose either of the options listed here to re-enable graphing calculators quickly and easily:

- Link together student graphing calculators with a unit-to-unit cable and transfer a file between the connected units.
- Use the “re-enable” option in the TestGuard 2.0™ Software.

TI TestGuard 2.0™ Software

Configure TI-84 Plus family graphing calculators by using this exclusive TI software to disable* or delete specific Apps not allowed on exams. Other disabled programs, data and files can also be cleared.

- Download TI TestGuard Software onto your (the educator’s) graphing calculator.
- Connect the educator’s calculator to individual student graphing calculators using a unit-to-unit cable (not USB).
- Configure each student unit one at a time (takes less than 10 seconds).
- A “Transfer Complete” message will appear on screen with a confirmation code on both educator and student units.

Choose any of the options listed here to re-enable graphing calculators quickly and easily:

- Link together student graphing calculators with a unit-to-unit cable and transfer a file between the connected units.
- Download a computer file to a graphing calculator.
- Send a file to a graphing calculator using the TI-Navigator™ classroom learning system.
- Use the “re-enable” option in the TestGuard 2.0 App.

Only educators are eligible to receive TestGuard 2.0 Software and at no cost. To request a free download and operating instructions, email ti-cares@ti.com.

**The disable feature works only on student TI-84 Plus calculators with operating system version 2.40 or later. If TI TestGuard 2.0 is set up to disable programs and/or applications and the student has a TI-83 Plus or a TI-84 Plus with an earlier operating system, the programs and/or applications will be deleted instead, with a configuration comparable to what was specified.*

TI Graphing Calculator Maintenance & Care

Storage Tips

- Remove the four (4) “AAA” batteries from each graphing calculator unit, especially for long-term storage (more than one month).
- If any of the batteries has a leak, be sure to dispose the entire battery set.
- Place the graphing calculator’s slide case over the front of each unit.

Battery Life

- Depending on usage, graphing calculator back-up batteries should be replaced every 3-4 years.
- Maximize battery life by avoiding exposure of graphing calculators to extremely warm/hot or highly humid environments.

Cleaning & Protection

- Use a cloth, lightly dampened with water, to clean the graphing calculator’s screen. Do not use solvents or other cleaning liquids.
- Avoid applying pressure to the screen/display.
- Keep foreign objects from penetrating or obstructing the connective ports of the calculator.
- Keep liquids from getting inside the unit.

Security & Safety

Graphing calculators purchased in TI’s EZ-Spot bright yellow back covers and slide cases distinguish school-issued graphing calculators from student-owned units. To learn more, visit education.ti.com/us/ezspot.