

When to add milk?

You make a cup of tea using boiling water. You will add milk at some point before you drink it. You need the temperature to drop below some limit in order for it to be comfortable for you to drink it. Should you add the milk at the start or just before drinking the tea?

Answer

From Newton's law of cooling, the rate of heat loss is proportional to the temperature difference. Therefore, the rate of cooling will be higher before the cold milk is added. Therefore, one should add the milk at the last minute.