



Thermostats offer saving opportunities

Heating and cooling costs account for a large portion of the energy consumption in our homes, close to fifty percent for the average home. So when it comes to reducing energy use and cutting home energy costs, the most impact can be made at the thermostat. The right thermostat settings can yield substantial savings, and new technology is making it easier than ever to achieve those settings.

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and may be controlled remotely through a tablet, smartphone or voice control. Some models use multiple sensors to monitor temperatures in various parts of the home for more balanced heating or cooling, track user temperature preferences and use the data to optimize your heating and cooling schedule, and some are designed for complex multi-stage systems that will control heating, cooling, dehumidifier and ventilation systems. If you're interested in controlling your thermostat with your voice or an app, or in being hands-off and letting it learn your habits, you should consider a smart thermostat.

To narrow your choices, factor in smart features, price and attributes that matter most to you, such as color, size or style, and make sure the chosen product supports your HVAC system.

If you're not in the market for all the bells and whistles that come with the features in a smart thermostat, a standard programmable thermostat will work just fine. They come at a much lower price point and also provide significant energy saving opportunities. While you won't have access to features such as reporting or the ability of the thermostat to learn your habits, the most important function is still there; the ability to automatically program your temperature settings. As with a smart thermostat, a standard programmable thermostat gives you the same ability to preset your temperature settings. You can adjust the temperature of your home based on when you're typically home or away, as well as at night when you're asleep. That way you keep your home warm or cool when you need it the most and also save a little money!

