

Thermostat Selection Guide

A thermostat is a temperature sensitive device that will control a heating or air conditioning system in your home or business, either by a manual operation, or by a pre-programmed time schedule. Over the years technology has progressed to include such features as touch screens and remote control functions. However, the vast number of features available can make selecting a new device overwhelming. This guide has been designed to take some of the mysteries out of selecting a newer device.



Thermostats can generally be broken down into 2 basic types— manual or programmable.

Manual thermostats are exactly that— manually controlled. A user simply sets the desired temperature, and the device will ensure a constant temperature. While this is the least efficient device, it does have it's place in environments where a constant temperature is desired or when a space is continuously occupied. Manual thermostats may be mechanical or digital.



Programmable thermostats are rapidly becoming the more popular option, because of the potential savings on heating and cooling expenses. They can be programmed to operate only during peak occupancy times, can be manually overridden, and may include more advanced features such as auto changeover from heat to cool and touch screen operation.

Once you have decided on the type of thermostat you desire, you will also need to determine the type of system you have so the proper thermostat may be selected. The most popular type of thermostat is a Low Voltage or 24v system. They may be used on a single stage, multi stage or zoned type system. It is important that if you have a multi stage system that you select a unit appropriate for that type of use. An alternate to a Low Voltage is a Line Voltage thermostat, which is commonly found in electric heating applications and can switch higher voltages to run the systems.



Other options to consider when choosing a thermostat-



Programming Schedule types— programming can be set in one of 4 ways— 7-Day, each day is programmed separately; 5-2 Day, weekdays and weekends can be set differently; 5-1-1, can be set for weekdays, Saturday and Sunday separately; and 1 Week, where the entire week is programmed the same.

Backlight Display— enables operation in low light conditions.

Battery Backup— eliminates the need to reprogram after loss of power.

Remote Programming— also known as arm chair programming, provides the convenience of programming the unit from the comfort of your favorite chair before installing on the wall.

Vacation or Hold Mode— enables the unit to be set at a specific temperature while away on vacation or for an extended period of time.

Remote Sensors— will display the temperature outside or at other remote locations, and can be used to average the temperature of the location.



Information sources include Honeywell, Robert-Shaw, and WW Grainger

If you are still having difficulty choosing a Thermostat,
 please contact us at askzoro@zoro.com or 855-289-9676

Product Compliance and Suitability.

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