



A thermostat job

The thermostat is responsible for monitoring the temperature of your home. It decides when to turn the heat on and off. It is a vital part of your home and can help reduce your heating bills.

Types of Thermostats

There are two main types of thermostats; the first is called a line-voltage thermostat, which is mainly used to control unitary heating systems, such as baseboard and radiant systems. These thermostats use 240 volts to operate. The second type is called a low-voltage thermostat which is used with gas heating, oil heating, and electric central heating systems where more efficient control is required. Low-voltage thermostats only require 25-35 volts, which is comparably less than the line-voltage thermostats.



Different options

There are many different options when choosing a thermostat.

Mechanical Thermostats have mechanical operators, meaning that they are not electronic. They are reasonably priced and are easy to install.

Electronic Thermostats use electronic rather than mechanical components.

Electronic thermostats are able to sense the temperature and control the heating system. They tend to be more accurate than the mechanical ones and have added features such as, automatic setback and programmability. The downside is that because of the added features they are more expensive than the mechanical ones.

Programmable Thermostats automatically adjust the temperature at pre-set times. With these thermostats you can pre-set your temperatures to correspond to your



daily activities. This will help save energy because you are able to have it turned down when you are away or in bed, and set to a comfortable temperature when everyone is at home during the day. The models range from those that are similar to a clock and change from night to day. There are also thermostats that can be programmed all times of the day and days of the week.

Special-Purpose Thermostats have special features that are designed to work with specific types of equipment. An example of that is the two-stage thermostats are used for hybrid heating systems that are using two fuels, such as electricity and oil to turn on the backup heating system when the main one cannot deal with the demand for heat. Heat/cool thermostats are used for homes that have summer air-conditioning.

Thermostat Location

A thermostat should be located 1.5 meters (5 feet) from the floor. It should also be centrally located on the wall away from direct sunlight, drafts, and sources of heat such as warm air refrigerators, ranges, fireplaces or other appliances. These heat sources could inadvertently cause the thermostat to think that the temperature is warmer than the room air temperature actually is.

Suggested thermostat settings

Sitting at home	21°C (70° F)
Working around the house	20°C (68° F)
Sleeping	18°C (64° F)
Empty house	16°C (61° F)

By changing the temperature by a few degrees, you can save from 5-9% on your bill depending on where you live.