

Ten things to know about Digital Thermostats

1. You'll need a thermostat for each heating/cooling unit that you have for your home (typically one in our area).
2. Most thermostats allow you to set the temperature for each of the 7 days of the week, at least 4 settings per day, or at least weekdays and weekends separately, 4 settings or more per day.
3. Your programmable thermostat should allow manual overrides. When the next time setting is reached, it will automatically go back to operate on its settings. Many programmable thermostats have a vacation setting or hold setting that overrides the daily settings until you come home. Convenient for long weekends away from home also.
4. Sometimes during the summer, this area may experience a high-peak period during a summer heat wave, where everyone is supposed to work together to save on energy use. Use the programmable thermostat to set the air conditioner(s) to cool down a bit just before your high peak period (usually 12 – 4), and then have the thermostat set to a reasonable, comfortable (but higher) temperature during that high peak period.
5. Make sure you buy a thermostat that you understand, and has settings that you understand and can read. Most electronic programmable thermostats have digital displays. If it isn't easy to use, chances are you won't use it properly and then you won't get the most benefit from it.
6. If you are replacing an existing manual thermostat, you might feel comfortable doing the installation yourself. It isn't complicated, and instructions are usually clear. If you never have any desire to touch anything that involves electricity, you're not alone. Then you should hire someone to install it for you.
7. Your programmable thermostat should operate with a back-up battery to save the program in case of a power outage.
8. Make sure when purchasing a thermostat, that instructions are on the inside cover, so you don't have to find the manual every time you want to make a change.
9. During the summer, set the thermostat by 5 to 10 degrees higher when you are away from the house and just the opposite in the winter. Make sure that if you have pets in the house the temperature isn't too high in the summer. If you work at home every day, or have family members who are home every day, the benefit of a programmable thermostat will be less.
10. A typical rule of thumb is that for every degree you raise or lower the temperature for 8 hours (while you work or sleep), you'll save one percent on your heating/cooling bill.

In the Northwest Ohio area, you can purchase programmable thermostats at any home improvement or hardware store, like Home Depot, Lowe's, or Ace Hardware.



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