VECTREN Energy Delivery

ConservationConnection

You can save up to 5% per year by turning back your thermostat 5 degrees for eight hours a day.

Managing Your Thermostat

A thermostat does two things. It compares the actual room temperature to the thermostat temperature you select, and it gives start-and-stop commands to the heating and cooling system in order to reach and maintain the thermostat setting you've selected. With older thermostats, you adjust your temperature settings by manually turning the dial or moving the levers to a different temperature. With newer, electronic programmable thermostats, you can program the thermostat to adjust the temperature automatically, depending on the time of the day and the day of the week. A programmable thermostat leads to substantial savings with no inconvience or sacrifice in comfort.

Find more energy savings through free or low-cost tips at www.vectren.com.

Free and Low-Cost Energy Efficiency Tips

- During the heating season, open your draperies and curtains during the day to let the sun in. And be sure to close them at night to keep the heat in. Conversely, keep them closed during the cooling season.
- Make sure registers and vents are not blocked by draperies or furniture. These vents should also be cleaned regularly with a broom or vacuum to enable airflow.
- Close fireplace dampers when they are not in use to prevent a drafty home.
- Turn down the thermostat on your water heater to a temperature of 115 to 120 degrees to save on water heating costs. If you have a dishwasher, check to make sure this lower temperature will clean the dishes properly.
- Wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents when possible and make sure you choose the appropriate water-level setting to save on hot water heating costs.

Find more tips at www.vectren.com.

Benefits of a Programmable Thermostat

During the winter, regularly setting your thermostat to a lower temperature, say by 5 degrees for 8 hours every day, will save about 5% on your heating bill. During the summer, if your thermostat controls a central air conditioner, you'll save by setting the cooling temperature at 78°F. Each degree above 75°F saves 3%.

Reducing your thermostat setting by one degree for eight hours will save about 1% on your heating bill. The more you set back your thermostat, the greater the savings.

Programmable features make it easier for you to adjust the thermostat settings when you are asleep or away. If you already change the thermostat settings by hand, the programmable thermostat may not save you much money, though it could make life more convenient.

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Programmable Thermostat Q & A

Q. Doesn't it take more energy for my furnace to get the temperature back to the normal setting after it's been turned down for a long time?
A. No, it doesn't. While it's true that the furnace runs longer when it's warming up the house from the setback temperature, it doesn't run at all while the house is cooling down to the lower setting. It also saves energy because it takes less fuel to maintain the lower temperature. Longer
setbacks will save more energy.

Q. If I turn the thermostat way up, my home will warm up more quickly, right?
A. No, you'll just use more energy. The thermostat turns the furnace on and off, it doesn't control how much heat the furnace produces. Your home will heat up just as quickly at a thermostat setting of 70 degrees as a thermostat setting of 78 degrees. The same idea applies to cooling your house in the summer. If you've set the cooling temperature at 78 degrees, turning it down to 68 degrees won't cool the house down any faster. Set it to the temperature you want to be comfortable.

Q. The temperature in my home always seems to be either too cold or too hot—what's wrong?
A. The temperature swing on the thermostat may be too wide. Thermostats are designed to operate in a certain band of temperatures. The thermostat turns the furnace on when the temperature dips below the band and turns the furnace off when the furnace gets above the band. If the temperature in your house is too hot or too cold, the temperature swing may need to be adjusted.

Q. Can I install a new thermostat myself?
A. Some thermostats are easy to install if you are able to read wiring diagrams. Take a look at the product instructions before purchasing. Regardless, feel free to consult a heating contractor for assistance.

Insulate First

Adding insulation and sealing air leaks will help keep the heat from escaping your home during the heating season. Make sure your attic is properly insulated to help lower your heating and cooling costs.

Q. Are there times I shouldn't set back my thermostat?
A. There are several things you'll want to consider when determining when and how much to set back your thermostat.

- Do you have water pipes that are prone to freezing (located in exterior walls)? Don't set back the thermostat so low as to risk freezing your pipes.
- On the coldest days of winter, the recovery period from a setback may be longer. To compensate, you might consider adjusting the time at which the furnace brings the heat back on or reducing the amount of the setback.
- If you get excessive condensation on your windows when you set back your thermostat, you may need to reduce the setback to control the humidity level in your house.
- Older boiler systems may require longer recovery times than new systems. Additionally, setting back the thermostat is not recommended for some boiler systems.

Other Resources

Vectren's online Home Energy Audit will help you pinpoint opportunities for energy savings, and its Bill Analyzer, which uses actual billing data, will help you gauge why bill amounts may vary from month to month. Use these tools at www.vectren.com.

The ENERGY STAR program provides information on energy efficient products that meet ENERGY STAR standards. You may even qualify for a tax credit based upon the energy efficiency rating of your new furnace. Learn more at www.energystar.gov or call 1-888-782-7937.

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