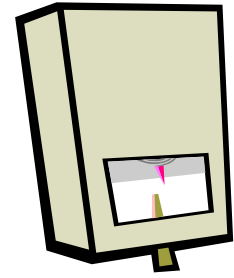


Thermostat Settings

There's an age-old argument about which way to manage your home thermostat is best. Should you keep the same temperature throughout the day, or turn the thermostat down (or up in the summer) when you leave in the morning and back up when you return home?



Believe it or not, turning the thermostat down when you leave in the morning and back up in the afternoon uses less energy and, therefore, saves you money.

Studies have shown that the fuel required to reheat a home to a comfortable temperature is roughly equal to fuel saved as the home drops to the lower temperature. Also, fuel is saved between the time that the temperature stabilizes at the lower level and the next time heat is needed. In other words, the longer your house remains at the lower temperature, the more energy you save.

By turning your thermostat back for eight hours by just 10-15 degrees, could save you five to 15 percent a year on heating bills. There is about a one percent savings for each degree setback during an eight-hour period.

It is recommended that while you are home; set the thermostat at 68° during the colder months and 78° during the warmer months.

Consider using a programmable thermostat to automatically set the temperature low while asleep at night or away, and raise the temperature to a comfort level when waking or returning home. However, if your house has a heat pump, check the manufacturer's specifications before purchasing a programmable thermostat. Most manufacturers have a setback thermostat specifically designed just for that unit. The wrong thermostat could actually cost more to operate your heat pump!

Another word of caution regarding heat pumps: Increasing the thermostat setting more than 2 degrees all at once during the heating mode can cause the auxiliary electric heat to operate. The energy consumed on auxiliary or emergency heat mode is quite expensive.