

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

FOUR REASONS TO GET A SMART THERMOSTAT

Have you considered purchasing a smart thermostat but can't decide if it's the right choice for you? To help you decide, let's look at some of the benefits smart thermostats have to offer:

1. Decreased energy costs

The average American household spends between \$1,000 and \$2,000 annually on heating and cooling. Equipping your HVAC system with smart technology can help you stay comfortable and save energy and money year-round.

A smart thermostat allows you to program a schedule with set temperatures based on your routine. You can be comfortable while you're at home, but also stop wasting energy and money heating or cooling an empty house when you're away. Smart thermostats can even be programmed to make adjustments so that your living space is the perfect temperature when you arrive home from work or school.

2. Easy temperature control

While a regular programmable thermostat can also give you the benefits of setting a schedule, smart versions offer the additional flexibility of modifying your settings from wherever you are, whenever you'd like. You can adjust your set schedule or even change the current temperature in real time through a smartphone-connected app.

And smart thermostats can even do this for you: Using advanced technology, they learn your habits and daily routines and make adjustments accordingly. With the help of geofencing, some smart thermostats can even interact with other devices, such as your smartphone or fitness tracker, to pinpoint how soon you'll be home. Based on this data, the thermostat can automatically adjust to your preferred temperature settings in time for your arrival, without you ever having to lift a finger.

3. Enhanced safety features

It's not all about comfort and saving money, however. Smart thermostats can make your home safer, too. Many are equipped with safety settings that can turn your HVAC system on or off, depending on the situation, and alert you immediately.

If your home reaches a temperature at which your pipes could freeze, for example, a smart thermostat can turn on the heat. Some smart thermostats can also sense carbon monoxide leaks or smoke and turn off the heat as a precaution.

4. Tracked energy usage

Smart thermostats may adapt their settings based on your habits, but they can also help you adjust those habits to save even more energy. Many provide reports or allow you to access your analytics in an app to observe how your energy usage has changed over time. A smart thermostat can predict how your current habits will likely affect your energy costs over time and even suggest what you can change to help you save more in the future.

Are you ready to upgrade to a smart thermostat? Firelands Electric Cooperative members who purchase and install an ENERGY STAR-certified, Wi-Fi-enabled smart thermostat can receive a bill credit equal to 50% of the unit's purchase price, with a maximum rebate of \$150. To learn more, visit www.firelandsec.com/smart-thermostat-rebate or call the cooperative's member services departments at 1-800-533-8658.

