

Coastlines

News and information for Customers of Central Lincoln People's Utility District



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Get More Comfortable, And Use Less Energy

“The right thermostat will operate your heating system in an efficient, comfortable manner.”

Now that the cold weather is here, it's time to take a serious look at your heating system. Is it keeping you comfortable, and more importantly, is it doing so in an economical manner?

The heating equipment you have is obviously the heart of your system. As with most systems, though, it requires a brain to make it function properly. And the brain of any heating system is the thermostat.

The right thermostat will operate your heating system in an efficient, comfortable manner. The wrong thermostat will not take advantage of the full potential of your heating system, and could cost you a lot of money in wasted energy.

Prior to the electronic revolution, most thermostats had simple bimetal heat sensors, made of two dissimilar types of metal, bonded together, that bent as the temperature changed. A lot of newer thermostats use sophisticated electronic sensing components to monitor room temperature. The differences are important.

Bimetal sensors are not as sensitive as their electronic counterparts. They can generally only keep your heated space within plus or minus five degrees of the temperature you've actually chosen. And they may cycle your heating equipment (turn it on or off) only three or four times an hour.

Electronic sensors, on the other hand, monitor the temperature in your heated area as often as four times per minute, and can cycle your heating equipment as many as 20 times per hour.

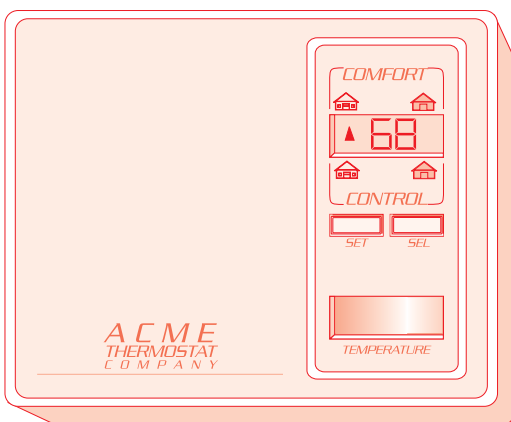
You can see that there may be some rather severe temperature swings with inadequate thermostats. That causes your heating equipment to run longer than necessary to keep your heat in balance.

There are several other features that you should look for in a thermostat. “Overshoot” is when your thermostat shuts down the heat at the proper temperature, but the heater still dissipates heat for several minutes causing room temperature to overshoot the desired level. “Heat anticipating” thermostats take this into account and shut the heater off a little sooner.

Many thermostats offer set-back features. This means that if you want to lower temperature by 10° each night, the thermostat will do it automatically. Many thermostats allow you to program up to a week or more in advance, with several changes per day.

Thermostats really have become the “brains” of your home heating system. They offer you much more control over your environment than in the past. They let you get the most performance from your heating equipment, use less energy to do so, and keep your home more comfortable in the process.

For more information about thermostats, contact your local heating contractor or electrical supplier.



How Much Does It Cost To Operate?

We frequently get asked how much it costs to operate various types of appliances. There are a lot of differences between appliances because of brand, style, age and condition, but there are some averages that allow "ballpark" calculations.

Here's a list of the most common appliances used in and around the home, and the average costs to operate them. *(Costs are based on our current residential rates, and hours of usage are based on a typical family of three people.)*

“A typical family of three will spend about \$2.27 per month to run their dishwasher.”

APPLIANCE	WATTAGE	HRS/MONTH	COST PER HR.	COST PER MO.
Blender	350	2	2.1¢	\$ 0.04
Coffee Maker	1,000	10	6.3¢	\$.63
Computer, Desktop	300	30	1.9¢	\$.57
Computer Printer	50	7	0.3¢	\$.02
Dehumidifier	250	126	1.6¢	\$ 1.98
Dishwasher <i>(One load per day)</i>	1,200	30	7.6¢	\$ 2.27
Dryer, Clothes	4,500	30	28.4¢	\$ 8.51
Electric Blanket	150	120	0.9¢	\$ 1.13
Food Dehydrator	600	4	3.8¢	\$.15
Food Processor	375	10	2.4¢	\$.24
Freezer	750	200	4.7¢	\$ 9.45
Furnace <i>(fan only)</i>	200	200	1.3¢	\$ 2.52
Garbage Disposal	445	2.5	2.8¢	\$.07
Hair Dryer	1,000	6	6.3¢	\$.38
Heater, Portable	1,250	30	7.9¢	\$ 2.36
Home Video Game <i>(w/TV)</i>	160	60	1.0¢	\$.60
Hot Tap	1,500	1	9.4¢	\$.09
Hot Tub <i>(Heater)</i>	1,200	200	7.6¢	\$ 15.12
Lawn Mower, Electric	1,200	4	7.6¢	\$.30
Light Bulb, 100-watt	100	180	0.6¢	\$ 1.13
Light, Fluorescent, 40-watt	40	180	0.3¢	\$.45
Lights, Christmas <i>(64 lights)</i>	480	50	3.0¢	\$ 1.51
Microwave Oven	700	15	4.4¢	\$.66
Oven	2,000	20	12.6¢	\$ 2.52
Range, Small Burner	1,250	20	7.9¢	\$ 1.58
Range, Large Burner	2,100	20	13.2¢	\$ 2.65
Refrigerator <i>Pre-1978</i>	479	300	3.0¢	\$ 9.05
<i>1978-1989</i>	319	300	2.0¢	\$ 6.03
<i>1989-1992</i>	256	300	1.6¢	\$ 4.84
<i>Post-1992</i>	195	300	1.2¢	\$ 3.69
Sewing Machine	100	10	0.6¢	\$.06
Slow Cooker	100	32	0.6¢	\$.20
Stereo System	500	150	3.2¢	\$ 4.73
TV, Color	150	150	0.9¢	\$ 1.42
TV, Black & White	100	150	0.6¢	\$.95
Toaster	1,000	5	6.3¢	\$.32
Toaster Oven	1,300	8	8.2¢	\$.66
Vacuum Cleaner	420	10	2.6¢	\$.26
Ventilation Fan	250	30	1.6¢	\$.47
Washing Machine	500	30	3.2¢	\$.95
Washing Machine, Horiz. Axis	250	30	1.6¢	\$.47
Water Bed Heater	400	350	2.5¢	\$ 8.82
Water Heater, 52-gallon	4,500	135	28.4¢	\$ 38.27
SHOP EQUIPMENT				
Water Pump <i>(1/2 hp)</i>	460	2	2.9¢	\$.06
Shop Drill <i>(1/4", 1/6 hp)</i>	250	2	1.6¢	\$.03
Skill or Table Saw <i>(1 hp)</i>	1,000	6	6.3¢	\$.38
Lathe <i>(1/2 hp)</i>	460	2	2.9¢	\$.06



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