

Smart Thermostats for Summer Savings

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Summer brings long days of sunlight for outdoor fun, vacations at the beach or lake, and time for afternoon lounging.

But summer also brings blazing hot temperatures and humidity, which mean increased energy costs. Since inflation is creeping into almost every corner of our lives and prices are staying high with little relief, families need all the savings they can find.

Fortunately, technology can help you save money at home in unexpected ways! For example, "Smart Home" technology uses the power of the internet to help monitor, regulate, and control many features of your home or office. From improved entertainment options to automated, time-based dimmable lighting fixtures, Smart Homes can make your life more efficient and save you money.

However, one of the best ways to save money this summer stands out: lower energy bills.

Smart Home technology can create these savings, specifically through "Smart Thermostats." According to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star program, "a smart thermostat is a Wi-Fi-enabled device that automatically adjusts your home's heating and cooling temperature settings for optimal performance."

The Energy Star program found that homeowners can save upwards of 30% on their energy bills by utilizing a smart thermostat (significant savings this summer when you need it most!)

Many smart thermostats can be connected to and controlled by voice-activated technology you may already have in your home, such as Apple's Home Kit (along with Siri, of course), Amazon's Alexa, and Google Assistant.

And with the high-speed fiber internet provided by WCTEL, you can be assured that your smart thermostat and other "Smart Home" devices will stay connected to your Wi-Fi so you can be more in control of your home and your budget.

Below, we highlight three of the best smart thermostats to cool your home this summer and keep money in your bank account!

1. Google's Nest Learning Thermostat

Our first option is one of the original smart thermostats—the Google Nest Learning Thermostat. Note the word 'Learning' in its name—that's because, over time, this smart thermostat *learns* your temperature preferences in different rooms and at various times of the day. Its large, round LCD screen is elegant (in a retro way) and easy to read. Overall, it may just be the best option on this list.

2. Ecobee Smart Thermostat With Voice Control

Known for its versatility, the Ecobee Smart Thermostat is another excellent choice. The Ecobee brims with features to make your home more comfortable and help you better regulate its energy efficiency. For example, its remote room sensors can work with multiple rooms at different temperature and humidity settings to adjust conditions depending on needs and usage. The Ecobee's touchscreen and smart speaker make it easy to operate and program, and its voice commands sync well with most other smart home devices and brands (e.g., Google, Apple, and Amazon). Note that it can be a bit pricier than Nest, but you may prefer its features.

3. Amazon Smart Thermostat

Though it is the least expensive option on this list, the Amazon Smart Thermostat still packs a power-saving punch and makes for an excellent budget selection. You can set your temperature with your voice and receive notifications on your energy usage.

As you'd probably expect, it syncs brilliantly with Alexa, though it does not work with Apple's HomeKit or Google Assistant. While it lacks the broad array of features of both the Nest and Ecobee smart thermostats, you may find that the Amazon Smart Thermostat fits your family's needs for the price.

You can be confident that any of the smart thermostats outlined above will help break the summer heat in your home and ease the pain in your wallet! It's just one of the numerous ways WCTEL's reliable fiber network can make your home more efficient and comfortable through "smart home" technology.