# VENSTAR®

THERMOSTAT HEADQUARTERS

RANKED

# #1

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## Thermostats

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### Venstar ColorTouch Series T5800

RECOMMENDED  What's this?

Approximate retail price: $170

4 people have reviewed this model.
See all 4 user reviews
Write a review

CR overall score 96 OUT OF 100
What's this?
P F G VG E
Highest rated 96
This model 96
Lowest 27
0 100

Overview | Ratings | Brand Reliability | User Reviews | Specs | Price & Shop

**Ratings Report Card**

The model report card shows the Ratings the model received for each of the tests our experts performed upon it.
Learn more

MORE INFO EXCELLENT VERY GOOD GOOD FAIR POOR

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ease of use | ● | Display | ● |

See Ratings for all models

**Reviews & Recommended** - Venstar ColorTouch Series T5800

CR's Take  tester image
The top-rated of the 30 tested, the Venstar has a colorful, interactive touch-screen display that makes it easy to program settings for each day of the week. Its programming prompts are simple and clear, and its screen is easy to see. But it has only a one-year warranty. You can customize the background screen by uploading up to 100 photos. You'll need the Skyport Wi-Fi Key if you want to control your thermostat remotely from mobile devices.

**About** - Venstar ColorTouch Series T5800

The Venstar ColorTouch Series T5800 is part of the thermostat test program at Consumer Reports. In our lab tests, thermostat models like the ColorTouch Series T5800 are rated on multiple criteria, such as those listed below.

Ease of use:
Denotes ease of setup and making routine adjustments and changes to setback programs, including overrides.

Display:
Includes clarity and visibility of information.

**Features & Specs** - Venstar ColorTouch Series T5800

| | |
|---|---|
| 7 day programmable | Yes |
| Warranty (yrs.) | 1 |
| Graphic display | Yes |

More features and specs

**User Reviews**

| Average User Rating | Consumer Reports User Reviews | Other User Reviews |
|---|---|---|
| Based on 4 reviews | Based on 4 reviews | Based on 0 reviews |

3.5 (based on 4 reviews)
50% of respondents would recommend this to a friend.

**Compare Models**

Compare this Model
Venstar ColorTouch Series T5800 $170

Recommended Models
ecobee EB-STAT-02 $300
Honeywell Prestige HD YTHX9321R $250
Lux Smart Temp ATX9600TS (Ace) $70

You have chosen to compare:
Venstar ColorTouch Series T5800
Compare

**See all Models**
Recommended
Ratings

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## Consumer Reports website rated the Venstar ColorTouch thermostat. Here is how it scored.

### OVERALL RATING

Consumer Reports rated the ColorTouch thermostat with a score of 96 out of 100.

### CATEGORIES

CR also rated the Display Quality and, more importantly, the Ease of Use with their highest marks of Excellent.

### DEFINITIONS

Display: *Includes clarity and visibility of information.*

Ease of Use: *Denotes ease of setup and making routine adjustments and changes to setback programs, including overrides.*

ARTICLE

CLEAR FAVORITES Some thermostats were a snap to set, even without reading the manual.

# Thermostats

## Saving energy can be easy with the right model

**PROGRAMMABLE** thermostats can trim about $180 a year from your energy bills by automatically reducing heating and cooling needs when you're away or asleep. Sounds simple. Though some of the 30 models we tested were easy to set and use, others were so complicated that you might give up in frustration and end up spending more, not less.

That's typically what was happening across the country, which is why you won't find the Energy Star on any thermostats. The program stopped certifying them in 2009 mostly because they were hard to use. New standards that factor in ease of use are being developed.

But you don't have to wait. Our testers rated ease of use based on how simple each thermostat was to set up and make routine adjustments to before reading the manual and then, if needed, with the manual. Most thermostats can keep rooms close to the chosen temperature, and all the thermostats in the Ratings have basic preprogrammed settings. Here's what else our testing found:

**Displays and prompts improve.** The top three models have colorful interactive touch-screen displays that were especially easy to use and see. You can zip through the prompts on the top-rated Venstar ColorTouch, $170. The Honeywell Prestige $250, and the Ecobee, $300, let you program them using prompts or by answering questions about your daily habits. And if you get stuck at work, you can adjust the Ecobee's settings, using your computer or smart phone, to turn the heat on later.

**Smarter isn't always better.** The Nest, $250, is a learning thermostat. It continually senses whether you're home and automatically adjusts its program based on changes you made the first week. From then on, it takes in your preferences and schedules and continually readjusts. It's also improving: Nest recently alerted customers of software updates done automatically via Wi-Fi. You can program the Nest yourself, but our panelists found the round, ultra-sleek model wasn't as intuitive as the top-rated thermostats. Like the Ecobee, you can remotely adjust the settings on the Nest using your computer or smart phone. You can also set the Nest to send you e-mail updates.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The best place to put a thermostat is on an interior wall that's away from vents and other sources of heat and drafts that could distort temperature readings.



**From a current issue of Consumer Reports displaying their opening article and a prominent picture of the Venstar ColorTouch thermostat.**

### DISPLAYS AND PROMPTS

"The top three models have colorful interactive touch-screen displays that were especially easy to use and see. ***You can zip through the prompts on the top-rated Venstar ColorTouch."***

### SMARTER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER

"You can program the Nest yourself, but our panelists found the round, ultra-sleek model ***wasn't as intuitive as the top-rated thermostats."***

## Shown is the detailed rankings of thermostats tested by Consumer Reports.

### RANKINGS

1. **Venstar ColorTouch**
2. Honeywell Prestige HD
3. Ecobee EB-STAT-02
4. Aprilaire 8800
5. Lux TX9600TS

6. Nest Learning Thermostat
7. Honeywell FocusPro 6000
8. Robert Shaw 9801i2
9. Honeywell RTH7500D
10. Emerson Blue Easy Reader

11. Honeywell Z-Wave
12. Radio Thermostat CT80
13. Honeywell RTH8500D
14. Lennox ComfortSense
15. Honeywell RTH6350D

16. Evolve Z-Wave T-100R
etc.....

1 Venstar

2 Honeywell

3 Ecobee

5 Lux

# Ratings Thermostats

**All tested models** In performance order.

Excellent · Very good · Good · Fair · Poor

CR Best Buy · Recommended

| Recommendation | Rank | Brand & model | Price | Overall score | Test results: Ease of use | Test results: Display clarity | Features: Easy to program time/temperature | Features: Easy to set time/date | Features: Interactive display | Features: Can be programmed remotely | Features: Warranty (yr.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Similar models,** in small type, are comparable to tested model. | | 0 P \| F \| G \| VG \| E 100 | | | | | | | |
| | | **SEVEN-DAY MODELS** unless noted. These let you program a different schedule every day. | | | | | | | | | |
| ✓ | 1 | **Venstar** ColorTouch Series T5800 [1] | $170 | 96 | Excellent | Excellent | • | • | • | | 1 |
| ✓ | 2 | **Honeywell** Prestige HD YTHX9321R [1] | 250 | 95 | Excellent | Excellent | • | • | • | | 5 |
| ✓ | 3 | **Ecobee** EB-STAT-02 | 300 | 94 | Excellent | Excellent | • | • | • | • | 3 |
| ✓ | 4 | **Aprilaire** Communicating Touchscreen 8800 | 300 | 78 | Excellent | Very good | • | • | | | 5 |
| ✓ | 5 | **Lux** TX9600TS Smart Temp LTX9600TS (Lowe's), ATX9600TS (Ace) | 70 | 75 | Very good | Very good | • | • | | | 3 |
| ✓ | 6 | **Nest** Learning Thermostat | 250 | 74 | Very good | Excellent | | • | • | • | 5 |
| ✓ | 7 | **Honeywell** FocusPRO 6000 TH6110D [2] | 80 | 74 | Very good | Very good | • | • | | | 5 |
| ✓ | 8 | **Robert Shaw** 9801i2 | 125 | 73 | Very good | Very good | • | • | | | 5 |
| | 9 | **Honeywell** RTH7500D RTH7600D | 90 | 70 | Very good | Very good | • | | | | 1 |
| | 10 | **Emerson** Blue Easy Reader 1F95EZ-0671 | 100 | 70 | Good | Excellent | | • | | | 5 |
| | 11 | **Honeywell** Z-Wave TH8320ZW | 160 | 69 | Very good | Good | • | • | | | 5 |
| | 12 | **Radio** Thermostat CT80 [1] | 275 | 68 | Very good | Very good | • | • | | | 5 |
| | 13 | **Honeywell** Touchscreen RTH8500D | 130 | 68 | Very good | Good | • | • | | | 1 |
| | 14 | **Lennox** ComfortSense 7000 Series | 230 | 68 | Very good | Very good | • | | | | 1 |
| | 15 | **Honeywell** RTH6350D RTH6450D [2] | 50 | 68 | Very good | Very good | • | • | | | 1 |
| | 16 | **Evolve** Z-Wave T-100R | 130 | 67 | Very good | Very good | • | • | | | 1 |
| | 17 | **Lux** ATX9000TS (Ace) TX9000TS, LTX9000TS (Lowe's) | 65 | 66 | Very good | Very good | | • | | | 1 |
| | 18 | **Lux** TX1500U LTX1500U (Lowe's), ATX 1500U (Ace) [2] | 40 | 60 | Good | Very good | | | | | 3 |
| | 19 | **Hunter** 44272 [2] | 40 | 57 | Good | Good | | • | | | 1 |
| | 20 | **Venstar** T-1050 [2] | 60 | 56 | Good | Very good | | | | | 1 |
| | 21 | **Jackson Systems** Wireless Comfort WCT-32 | 170 | 53 | Good | Very good | | | | | 5 |
| | 22 | **Hunter** 44377 | 50 | 52 | Good | Good | | • | | | 1 |
| | 23 | **Hunter** 44132 [2] | 30 | 48 | Good | Fair | | | | | 1 |
| | 24 | **Filtrete** 3M-50 3M-30 | 110 | 46 | Fair | Very good | | | | • | 5 |
| | 25 | **ICM** Controls SimpleComfort PRO SC5813 | 110 | 44 | Fair | Very good | | | | | 5 |
| | 26 | **Emerson** Big Blue 1F95-1277 | 165 | 42 | Good | Fair | | • | | | 5 |
| | 27 | **Jackson** Systems T-32-P | 110 | 40 | Fair | Good | | | | | 5 |
| | 28 | **Hunter** 44905 | 80 | 37 | Very good | Poor | • | • | | | 1 |
| | 29 | **Filtrete** 3M-22 | 45 | 35 | Fair | Good | | | | | 5 |

[1] Needs additional Wi-Fi module to program thermostat remotely. [2] One schedule for weekdays; one or two for weekends.

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