### APPLIANCES 101:

# KNOW YOUR SMART THERMOSTATS



- 3 Sensors
- **4** Common wire

ecoblock<sup>™</sup>

# **O1** WHAT ARE SMART THERMOSTATS?

Smart thermostats are **networked devices** that **automatically monitor and control** a household's **heating**, **ventilation**, and **air conditioning** to optimize energy performance and improve occupant comfort.

Like manual and programmable thermostats, smart models enable users to set the temperature throughout the day. However, they may offer additional features like **remote sensing** and **energy tracking**. ENERGY STAR-certified smart thermostats deliver additional energy and cost savings.

## **02** HOW DO THEY WORK?

Smart thermostats are installed like standard models and may require **manual adjustments** for the first couple weeks. Unlike programmable thermostats, which run on a preset schedule, some smart models learn to **automatically adjust heating and cooling** based on user temperature preferences and behavior; others have **remote sensors** that can adjust the temperature based on indoor occupancy levels. Users can use a **companion mobile app** to program the temperature settings, which are transmitted to the thermostat then to a home's HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system.

## **03** COMMON FEATURES



### Network connectivity & remote control

Smart thermostats connect to a home's network, allowing the user to remotely control the HVAC system through a mobile app.



#### Geofencing

Geofencing thermostats adjust the temperature based on a user's location (at/away from home). Using a smartphone's GPS, the mobile app creates a geofence, or electronic boundary, around the home and regulates heating and cooling based on the user's proximity to that virtual border.



#### Smart home device integration

Smart thermostats can pair with other smart devices (phone, tablet, and computer) and integrate with voice assistants like Google Home and Amazon Alexa to control a home's HVAC system.

## **04** MAJOR BRANDS





### Optimized temperature pattern recognition

Smart thermostats are able to recognize household temperature preferences, occupancy patterns, and weather conditions in order to establish a temperature-setting schedule that optimizes energy use.



#### Remote sensors

Wireless remote sensors detect the temperature or occupancy of specific rooms and relay that data to the main thermostat, allowing it to calibrate the temperature of underserviced spaces based on the sensor's location.



### Energy tracking & reports

Smart thermostats allow users to track and manage energy usage. ENERGY STAR-certified models provide monthly reports of equipment use and temperature data, and can save energy based on field data gathered from over one thousand homes over the course of a year.

## **05** WHY SMART THERMOSTATS?

### Pros

+ Significant energy &
utility savings
+ Integration with home
energy management
(HEM) systems
+ Pattern recognition
optimizes temperature
settings & scheduling
+ Improved indoor comfort
+ Remote, Wi-Fi enabled
monitoring & control
+ Provides weekly &
monthly energy reports
+ Eligible for rebates

### Cons

+ Potentially high initial
cost & learning curve
+ Installation may be costly
+ Must be compatible with
HVAC & electrical systems
+ Older homes may not
have a common wire
(C-wire), requiring a
separate power adapter to
supply energy to the
thermostat
+ Reported savings often
apply to homes with low
occupancy levels