

## Step by Step Guide to:

### Buying a Programmable Thermostat

- 1 Many types of programmable thermostats are now available from hardware and home improvement stores, as well as from furnace retailers and contractors. They can range from allowing one or two adjustments a day to multiple changes per week. To narrow your choices, determine what temperature setbacks you want – including weekends and holidays – and then look for the simplest thermostat that meets your needs. Look for thermostats with programming instructions printed on the cover or inside the housing box, making it easier to change your settings. Make sure the thermostat is compatible with your home's heating system. If you have a cooling system, choose a thermostat that will control both heating and cooling. Note: The ENERGY STAR® program, which identifies energy-efficient equipment, will be discontinued for programmable thermostats May 1, 2008.
- 2 Determine if you want to install the programmable thermostat yourself or hire an electrician or heating and ventilation contractor to do it. Battery-operated thermostats are relatively easy to install if you are replacing an existing, manual thermostat in the same location. If new wiring is required to connect the thermostat to the furnace, you may want to consider hiring a professional.
- 3 If you're doing it yourself, you'll first need to remove the old thermostat. Although thermostats generally involve low-voltage wiring, you should turn off the electricity before proceeding. Take care removing the existing thermostat, which may well contain a mercury-filled tube. Because mercury is a hazardous material, you should take the old thermostat to your local chemical drop-off centre for disposal.
- 4 Installing the new thermostat generally involves connecting the wires to the previous attachment points. Carefully follow the instructions in the manufacturer's brochure.



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