

Programmable Thermostats - Comfort & Savings!



Every Alicante condo has at least 1 programmable thermostat* to control the HVAC system. Proper use of programmable thermostats results in a comfortable environment and can save ~\$180 each year**. Of course, given San Diego’s benign climate, maximum savings may occur from minimal use of your HVAC system – windows open!

Instead of maintaining one temperature throughout the day, or throughout the week, programmable thermostats save energy by maintaining different temperatures at different times. For example, when people are typically away (at work/school) the inside temperature can be lower (winter) or higher (summer) than would be comfortable when residents are home. Or, when people are sleeping, the inside temperature can be lower (winter) than when people are moving about the house. The temperatures that the thermostat maintains at different times are called “set-points”. Examples of set-points are below: First table for **winter** and second for **summer**. Blue highlight shows energy savings set-points.

Alicante

classic, comfortable, modern
in Bankers Hill

Time	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri	Sat, Sun
10 PM – 6 AM	60° F (sleeping)	60° F (sleeping)
6 AM – 7 AM	70° F (morning prep)	70° F (at home)
7 AM – 5 PM	60° F (at work)	70° F (at home)
5 PM – 10 PM	70° F (at home)	70° F (at home)

Time	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri	Sat, Sun
10 PM – 6 AM	77° F (sleeping)	77° F (sleeping)
6 AM – 7 AM	77° F (morning prep)	77° F (at home)
7 AM – 5 PM	84° F (at work)	77° F (at home)
5 PM – 10 PM	77° F (at home)	77° F (at home)

Rules of Thumb for Proper Use:

1. Keep the thermostat set at **energy savings set-points** for at least eight hours, for example, when no one is home, and at night, after bedtime.
2. All thermostats let you temporarily make an area warmer or cooler, without erasing the programmed set-points. This override is cancelled automatically at the next program period. You pay more on energy bills if you over-ride the pre-programmed set-points.
3. Thermostats typically have two types of hold features: (a) hold/permanent/vacation; (b) temporary. Avoid using the hold/permanent/vacation feature to manage day-to-day temperature. “Hold” or “vacation” features are best used for extended periods. Set this feature at a constant temperature (i.e. several degrees warmer in summer, several degrees cooler in winter) when going away for the weekend or longer. You'll waste energy and money if you leave the “hold” feature at the comfort setting while you're away.
4. Cranking the thermostat up to 90°F or down to 40°F, for example, won't heat or cool any faster. Most thermostats begin to heat or cool at a set time, to reach set-point temperatures sometime thereafter. Units with adaptive (smart/intelligent) recovery features are an exception: These units calculate the time required to heat or cool the house, so that it reaches the set-point at the time programmed by the owner. In this way, your condo is comfortable when occupied, but saving the most energy when unoccupied.
5. If your condo has multiple heating or cooling zones, you'll need to program the thermostat for each zone to maximize comfort, convenience and energy savings throughout the condo.
6. If your thermostat runs on batteries, change the batteries each year.

* Owner's manual for Venstar Model T1050 (shown above, typical for Alicante) online:

<http://www.venstar.com/Thermostats/SmallR/>

** https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=thermostats.pr_thermostats_guidelines