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THERMOSTAT HEADQUARTERS



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SCORE CARD

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

CR CONTENT AVAILABLE ONLY TO SUBSCRIBERS

Thermostats

Home > Appliances > Thermostats > Ratings > Venstar ColorTouch Series T5800

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

Performance: 96
Thermostat: 96
Control: 27

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

See all Models

Recommended Ratings

Nobody Tests Like We Do

Our testers put 100s of products through their paces at our National Testing and Research Center. Learn more about how we test for:

- Performance
- Safety
- Reliability

Learn more

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

Ease of use Display

See Ratings for all models

Reviews & Recommended - Venstar ColorTouch Series T5800

CR's Take

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.

tester image

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 Based on 4 reviews

Consumer Reports User Reviews Based on 4 reviews

Other User Reviews Based on 0 reviews

★★★★★ 3.5 (based on 4 reviews)

50% of respondents would recommend this to a friend.

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.



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.*"

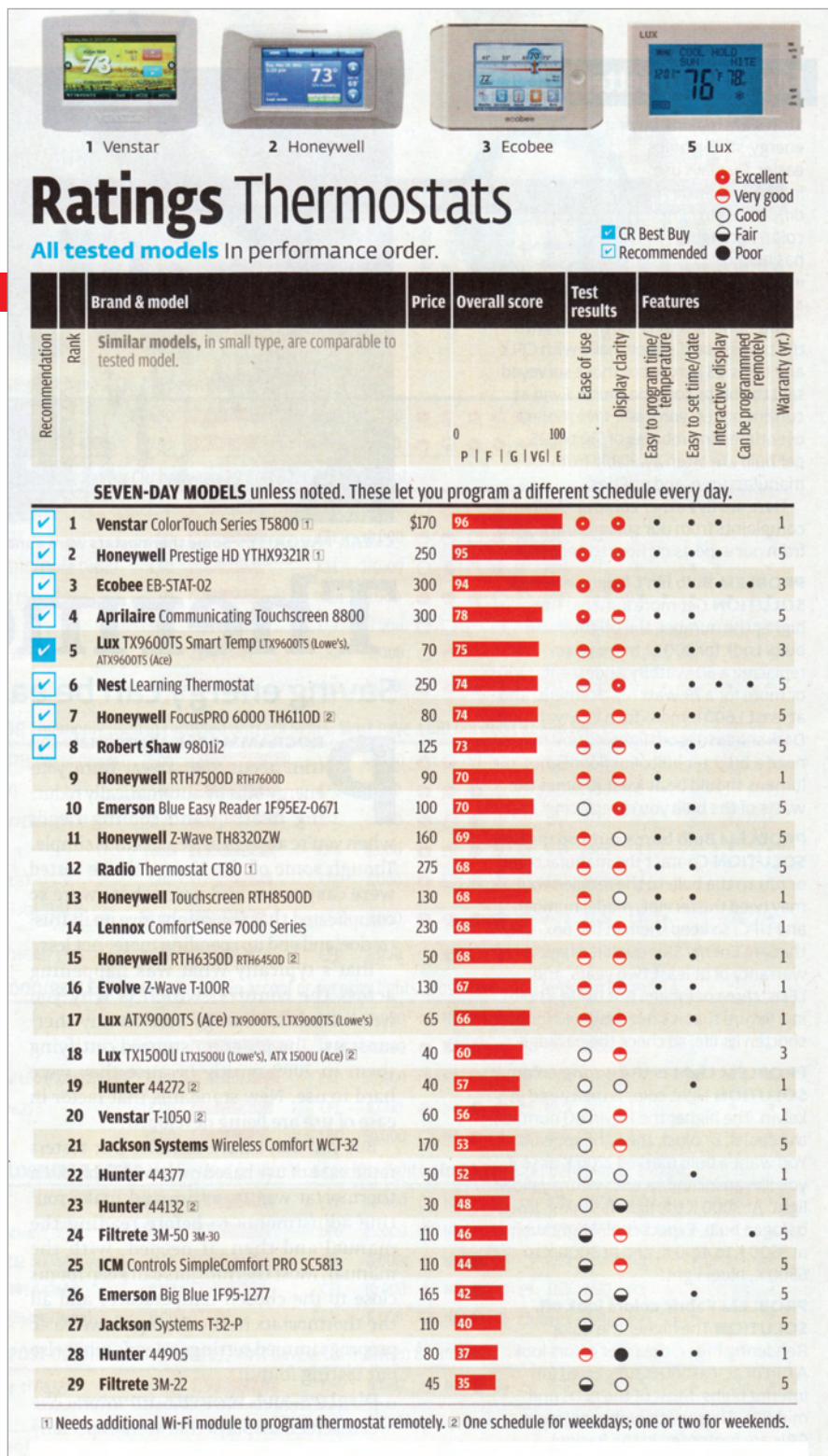
SMARTER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER

"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.....



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