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# Best Smart Thermostats 2016

by [MIKE PROSPERO](#) Jul 13, 2016, 1:15 AM

Yes, smart thermostats are cool -- letting you monitor and control your home's temperature from your smartphone, PC or tablet -- but they're really about saving money. That's because these devices can monitor temperature and humidity outside your home, your comings and goings, and tailor heating and cooling cycles accordingly.

Based on our comprehensive testing, **Ecobee3** ([\\$249 on Amazon](#)) is the best overall choice in this category because its sensors let you deliver the right temperature on a room-by-room basis. It also knows which rooms are occupied and comes with an intuitive app. Since our initial review, it's only gotten better, and now works with Apple's HomeKit. As a result, we've bumped its rating to 9 stars. Our runner-up is the third-generation Nest Learning Thermostat, which has a larger display than before, and works with a multitude of other smart home devices, including the Amazon Echo.

**9/10**

○ SMARTPHONE COMPATIBILITY

Android, iOS

○ MULTIPLE ZONES

Yes

○ SELF-INSTALLATION

Yes

○ MOTION ACTIVATION

Yes

• WORKS OFFLINE

Yes

• WORKS WITH

HomeKit, Amazon Echo, Samsung SmartThings, Logitech, Wink, IFTTT

## How We Tested and Rated

I installed—or had installed—several smart thermostats in my apartment, and tested them separately for at least one week. This included not just changing the temperature, but also evaluating its accompanying app and web portal, if available. If the thermostat worked with other smart home devices or Web-connected services (such as IFTTT), I tested that functionality as well.

As you'll see in our comparison table (above), we break down the features you should look for in a smart thermostat. The Ecobee is the only device we tested that supports multiple zones. All of the smart thermostats reviewed offer motion activation, except for the Carrier Cor, which is also the only one that requires professional installation.

While there's a lot of futuristic things about the Ecobee--such as its slick touchscreen interface--its best feature is something that thermostat makers should have thought about years ago: How to make sure all the rooms of your house are getting heated or cooled properly. A small wireless sensor gets placed in the room that stays chilly, and the thermostat will keep the heat on until it senses that room has warmed up enough. Now that's smart.

Compared to the competition, the Ecobee3 also has the best overall feature set, and its mobile app worked seamlessly. It's compatible with Apple's HomeKit and the Amazon Echo, to name a few smart home systems. Also, the fact that I could get all of my rooms—not just one—to the right temperature makes all the difference.