

# Programmable Thermostat Requirements

2021 VRC/VECC Review Guide



## Primary Thermostats Require Multi-Day Programmability:

**Summary:** The Virginia Residential Code has long required the installation of a programmable thermostat for the “primary” heating and cooling system serving the home. With the 2021 edition, this device must include the ability to schedule different setpoints “at different times of the day and different days of the week.” Compliant equipment could offer weekday/weekend programming only or unique schedules for all 7 days.

## 2021 VRC/VECC Code References:

**N1103.1 (R403.1) Controls.** Not less than one thermostat shall be provided for each separate heating and cooling system.

**N1103.1.1 (R403.1.1) Programmable thermostat.** The thermostat controlling the primary heating or cooling system of the dwelling unit shall be capable of controlling the heating and cooling system on a daily schedule to maintain different temperature set points at different times of the day and different days of the week. This thermostat shall include the capability to set back or temporarily operate the system to maintain zone temperatures of not less than 55°F (13°C) to not greater than 85°F (29°C). The thermostat shall be programmed initially by the manufacturer with a heating temperature setpoint of not greater than 70°F (21°C) and a cooling temperature setpoint of not less than 78°F (26°C).

## Definitions:

**DWELLING UNIT.** A single unit providing complete independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

**MANUAL.** Capable of being operated by personal intervention (see “Automatic”).

**OCCUPANT SENSOR CONTROL.** An automatic control device that detects the presence or absence of people within an area and causes lighting, equipment or appliances to be regulated accordingly.

**THERMOSTAT.** An automatic control device used to maintain temperature at a fixed or adjustable set point.

