

## **ColorTouch Touchscreen Thermostat From Venstar Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is ColorTouch?**

ColorTouch™ is the first and only touch screen thermostat with customizable wallpaper backgrounds and screensavers, such as slideshows and clocks. It is also the first thermostat that gives users the ability to upload their own photos for the wallpaper and screensaver.

### **Can users show their own photos on their thermostat screen?**

Yes. Users can now have any of their photos, such as pictures of themselves, their kids or pets, travel photos or more on their thermostat screens, either as background wallpaper or as screensavers (slideshow of up to 100 photos).

### **Can the thermostat display up to 100 photos?**

Yes. Users may install up to 100 photos for the thermostat, all of which can rotate as a slideshow when the thermostat is in screen saver mode. If desired, any of these photos may also be selected as the background wallpaper for the thermostat.

### **Can users edit their photos?**

Yes. Users can customize the appearance of their ColorTouch thermostats by using their own photos for the screen savers and background wallpaper. Importing photos into the ColorTouch thermostat is simple using the ColorTouch Assistant software and an SD memory card. Compatible with any Mac or PC desktop or laptop computer, ColorTouch Assistant is included with the ColorTouch thermostat and can be downloaded from Venstar's Web site at no cost.

### **What kind of edits can be done to the user's photos?**

With ColorTouch Assistant, users can customize their photos with ColorTouch Assistant's built-in editing features, including zoom, rotate, color, and brightness adjustment, or reset to put the photo back to its original format. Using the "preview" feature, users can see how the photo will look as background wallpaper once the thermostat info is placed over the photo. Preview allows them to make sure their photo selections are acceptable before uploading them to the thermostat.

### **Are there photos built-in as well?**

Yes. ColorTouch also comes with more than a dozen built-in nature and holiday-themed photos that can be used as background wallpaper for the thermostat. Holiday themes include Christmas, Hanukkah, Thanksgiving, Halloween and Cinco

de Mayo. Each theme has separate photos, displaying daytime and nighttime shots, along with showing the sun for day and the moon for night.

### **How does the user upload and edit photos?**

Using ColorTouch Assistant software that comes with the thermostat or that can be downloaded from [www.venstar.com](http://www.venstar.com), users can upload and edit their photos, choose photos for the background wallpaper and slideshows, can view and edit the Schedule, adjust preferences and alerts for Thermostat Settings, and make updates to ColorTouch software and firmware.

### **How does ColorTouch Assistant work?**

The ColorTouch Assistant software has five main menu items that make programming the ColorTouch thermostat fast and easy, including:

- **Picture Gallery** — users can easily find and upload their own photos. Editing tools allow for photo placement, color and brightness adjustments.
- **Service Information** — allows the contractor to provide service contact information. This can also be done directly on the thermostat.
- **Schedule** — users can see an “overview” of the time period schedule for heating and cooling and can edit the schedule from any Mac or PC desktop or laptop computer running ColorTouch Assistant. The user can also view and change the schedule directly from the thermostat.
- **Thermostat Settings** — users can adjust preferences, alerts, daylight savings, vacation, security, and overall system settings. The user can also make setting changes directly on the thermostat.
- **Automatic Updates to ColorTouch Software and Firmware** (the operating system and feature set) — When the user opens the ColorTouch Assistant application, it automatically connects to the Venstar Web site in the background and updates the ColorTouch Assistant and thermostat firmware to the latest revisions at no charge. ColorTouch Assistant updates the firmware to the SD memory card to be uploaded to the thermostat, which then updates the thermostat. Updating the firmware ensures that the user always has the most current system software, including new features and performance enhancements.

### **Can users upload photos directly from their SD cards?**

Yes, once the user’s SD card has been updated using ColorTouch Assistant software. With the SD memory card, users can upload images for the ColorTouch screensaver and background wallpaper. Users can also save settings from an existing ColorTouch thermostat that need to be exported to other ColorTouch thermostats (so the user doesn’t have to program each individual thermostat).

## **What are the choices for the ColorTouch screensaver visuals?**

- ColorTouch offers a choice of three screensaver modes:
  - **Slideshow** from the users' photos or built-in photo gallery
    - Home Screen information can be included in the slideshow rotation (every five photos).
  - **Digital Clock**
    - For the digital clock, the thermostat also shows the room temperature, displaying heating status with a red ring around the temperature number, or cooling with a blue ring around the number.
  - **Analog Clock**
    - The user can include the digital or analog clock in the slideshow rotation (every five photos).

## **What if a user wants it to be super simple?**

With ColorTouch's "Simple as you Want" operation, the user can customize the information shown on the thermostat display, including:

- "Simple as You Want" operation allows the user to remove the cooling references for homes without air conditioning.
- "Simple as You Want" operation allows ColorTouch to be installed as a programmable or non-programmable thermostat.
- "Simple Stat" operation mode provides enlarged display numbers and fewer display items, making it perfect for the most basic users.

## **How easy is it to view and edit the Schedule?**

The Schedule keeps home temperatures comfortable. The intuitive "Time Period" Scheduler automatically changes the temperature and mode for up to four periods per day, allowing for comfortable temperatures for sleeping, waking, and daytime, plus an energy savings mode for when no one is home.

## **Is it easy to read the thermostat at a glance?**

Yes. The "at-a-Glance" screen clearly shows the user heating and cooling status, as well as the room temperature. In addition, Heat and Cool Indicators give "at-a-glance" information on heating and cooling, so users can easily see if air conditioning or heating equipment is on (the temperature number in blue if air conditioning is on; in red if heating is on).

## **Can ColorTouch show the outdoor temperature as well?**

Yes, with the Optional Outdoor Temperature Sensor. The ColorTouch thermostat can be wired with an outdoor sensor so that the outside temperature can be displayed right on the screen. The user also has the option to display the high and low temperatures for the day.

**Can the user turn off or dim the bedroom thermostat?**

Yes. The nighttime dimmer for bedroom thermostats gives the user the ability to adjust the time the dimmer is on. Users can also adjust the active brightness (when it is being touched) and the idle brightness, from 0 to 100 percent brightness with complete darkness being an option when the dimmer is idle.

**Can the user lock the thermostat so no one else can change it?**

Yes. Users have the option to engage an automatic screen lock that can lock the screen minutes after it has been touched and requires a pass code to enable access, which eliminates kids or guests changing thermostat settings. Users also have the ability to enforce temperature set point limits, ensuring that the system runs within set temperature parameters so that no one can run the air conditioning too low or the heat too high.

**Can users customize the faceplates to match their interiors?**

Yes. Users can also choose their own customizable faceplates to match their home décor. Options include white (supplied), black, silver, and wood grain. A wall plate is available, if needed, to conceal the wall area where a larger thermostat previously existed.

**What about Daylight Savings Time? Does ColorTouch automatically adjust?**

Yes. Daylight Savings mode automatically adjusts for daylight savings.

**Can users operate ColorTouch in languages other than English?**

Yes. Language choices for ColorTouch also include Spanish and French.

**Does ColorTouch work with most heating and air conditioning systems?**

Yes. ColorTouch is compatible with most heating and air conditioning equipment and controls gas/electric or heat pump equipment, with up to 4 heating and 2 cooling stages. It is dual-fuel capable.

**What is the price for ColorTouch?**

ColorTouch has an estimated street price of less than \$200, which is about half the cost of competitors' touch screen thermostats.

### **Where can users buy ColorTouch?**

ColorTouch is available through HVAC distributors and contractors nationwide. Visit <http://www.venstar.com/Thermostats/ColorTouch>

### **Where do I go for help after the ColorTouch thermostat is installed?**

The end user has a couple of options. Since this product is only available from professional, installing dealer/contractors, the installer should be the first person contacted. The installer is familiar with the specifics of the installation. The second option is to consult our website for help. And if that doesn't suffice, email our technical support.

### **What's next for the ColorTouch line?**

A commercial version of ColorTouch, ColorTouch Commercial, was released in February, 2011. For more information on ColorTouch, please visit <http://www.venstar.com/Thermostats/ColorTouch> or review the ColorTouch Commercial Fact Sheet in the Press Kit section of the Venstar Web site at [www.venstar.com/press](http://www.venstar.com/press).

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