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Category: Compare Wireless Weather Stations

Subcategory: Compare Wireless Weather Stations Tips

Tip: Animate Your Weather Station

Your Ferrari Modena Oregon Scientific weather station has an engine roar alarm. What more do you want in this era of ringtones and pictures on your cell phone? Weather animations might be nice, you respond. When you compare wireless weather stations, you look for animated icons and even a digital weatherman. LaCrosse weather stations have digital weathermen, while Oregon Scientific weather stations flash a rain cloud with rain so realistic you'll run to grab your umbrella. The Oregon Scientific AWS888 Color Weather Station even has a color display showing you the weather you're missing in Hawaii. Even Honeywell has a colorful animated display if you're shopping for other wireless weather station manufacturers. Don't let the animations distract you from the diagnostics. If you need an Oregon Scientific weather station that can monitor five remote locations (the pool, the garden, the driveway, the fenced-in run for the dogs, and the back porch), but the model doesn't have animation, you'll just have to be content with your cell phone IM icons.

Tip: Davis vs. Oregon Scientific Complete Weather Station

Rain. Sun. Snow. Hail. Davis. Oregon Scientific. What will the new day bring? Your choice of a Davis weather station or an Oregon Scientific weather station will make the difference. The weather will still be the weather, but you can choose your way of detecting a rainstorm. The trouble is, the Davis weather station and the Oregon Scientific weather station are both complete, with all the accoutrements you'll need. How do you choose one? If you live in Alaska or in the Pacific Northwest, you need a weather station that you can check indoors without interference. Make sure whichever weather station you choose is not affected by extreme cold and snow. Fortunately, you'll get chill-proof snow-resistant wind sensors (anemometers) and temperature sensors with both the Davis weather station and the Oregon Scientific weather station. If you do live in a harsh environment, make sure you don't have to climb up on the roof often to maintain your weather equipment. The Oregon Scientific weather station and the Davis weather station have the tripod-mounted equipment option. Also, decide whether you want a cabled or cable-free weather station. The Davis weather station with cable connections is perfect for metal homes and landscape with multiple obstructions. The Oregon Scientific weather station models are wireless. Rain. Snow. You know that you're facing both tomorrow, now that you've taken the time to compare wireless weather stations, and cabled ones too. You're prepared for anything!

Tip: I Just Want to Take Your Temperature

Weather stations can tell you the phases of the moon for the next week. You don't want

to know when the sun will rise and set. You've got your bedtime and morning routine down to a science. The sun takes cues from you. Or you simply want to check the temperature in the newly renovated kitchen and bathroom to make sure the contractor doesn't leave holes. When you compare wireless weather stations, don't forget to ask about temperature sensors. An Oregon Scientific weather center can be as simple as a wireless indoor/outdoor thermometer that you can set to monitor heat leaks in the bathroom and a three-degree boost in temperature in the kitchen--this happened when you weren't even cooking, so you know something odd is afoot. Or you just want to monitor the temperature in one location, basic indoor temperature. The LaCrosse Alarm Clock (which you don't need because you always get up at 6:01 a.m. anyway) can take the place of a full LaCrosse weather station as far as you're concerned. Or if you want to monitor outdoor temp too, you can buy a LaCrosse indoor/outdoor thermometer. True, you'll receive rain forecasts too, but at least you'll avoid the sun/moon information. After all, if your contractor botches the roof job, you'll learn more about sunset and moonrise than you ever wanted.

Tip: Information at a Glance

You hate toggling between displays on your Lifecycle. You don't even like looking for different sales data--that's why your desk looks like a tornado touched down in your office. When it comes to the weather, you're equally impatient. When you compare wireless weather stations, you like to display all of them side by side on the Internet--you'd line them all up in the store if you could. But you're too impatient to read the features and specs that tell you whether you can see all the data from nine remote sensors at once, so we'll just summarize. If you're looking for simultaneous data on the Ferrari Monza Oregon Scientific weather station, the description says "at a glance" data from up to three remote sensors. Not what you're looking for? Don't worry. Read on. The wireless Vantage Pro weather station, and Vantage Pro 2 model, shows sensor graphs and information displays, including historic weather data, at a glance, transmitted from the sensor suite. Of course, you could slow down, smell the roses, clean up your desk, and get a touch screen LaCrosse weather station...otherwise you might have to monitor your blood pressure too. Maybe not. After all, you thrive on knowing the whole picture. But it still wouldn't hurt to organize your desk.

Tip: Weather Station Sensor Zones

You have a large property--not like Paris Hilton's, of course, but large. You can't be everywhere at once, even though you somehow earned the title of "Mom" and the standard eyes in the back of your head. After all, you are running a daycare center out of your home. You need to monitor: --The outdoor play area --The back yard --The wading pool --The driveway in winter --The rainfall on the west side of the house where the kids love to slide in the mud When you compare wireless weather stations, which you can of course try to write off as a business expense, check to see that your Oregon Scientific weather station has the ability to monitor up to five locations. The Vantage Pro

weather station will work if you don't mind just a straight line range of up to 1,000 feet across your property...oh, and it is compatible with up to eight different sensor types, so you can see if the soil is moist enough for little Susie to grow her cucumber seedlings. Even if it doesn't have the capability to monitor five different locations, you can set up to 70 alarms, which is helpful if Billy likes to ride his scooter on the driveway...in winter. On the other hand, you just expanded your business and built a new playroom. That LaCrosse weather station (W2210) that monitors nine different sensors looks like a terrific investment. After all, you love kids. You love your ever-expanding home. You also love your peace of mind.

Category: Home Weather Stations

Subcategory: Home Weather Station

Tip: Storm-Proofing Your Home

A storm's coming. You can feel it even if the local Doppler weather radar says there's nothing but sunshine ahead. Although home weather stations won't detect the storm before the Doppler does, they can be useful to pinpoint changes in barometric pressure. Barometric pressure will tell you when a storm's coming. The lower the barometer reading on personal weather stations, the greater likelihood of storms. Other storm indicators: --Increase in wind speed, say from 30 to 50 mph --Rainfall collected --Cloud movements You can program sprinklers to shut off when rain is imminent. Or you can close storm shutters when high winds look likely. Also, home weather stations come equipped with storm warning alerts. So while the local meteorological station won't call you for advice, you can use your home weather station to storm-proof your home.

Subcategory: Personal Weather Stations

Tip: Accidents at Home? No Problem

Last Christmas your parents and in-laws nearly slipped on their driveways and broke their hips...which would mean they'd have to bunk with you, right? Your home weather station tells you the ice will be more treacherous this year. May we suggest an early Christmas present: personal weather stations that can detect ice before it forms on the driveway. Your father-in-law and your mother will probably tell you that they can read the indicators better than you can. Home weather stations that are backlit with jumbo displays are excellent choices. When the temperatures drop and snow seems imminent, your mother-in-law can turn on the driveway and walkway heaters to prevent ice from forming. You can help out by making sure irrigation systems are turned off so ice doesn't form. You might still end up having a houseful this Christmas, but at least your in-laws will take it easy because they're stuffed, not because they're injured!

Tip: Kids and Personal Weather Stations

Kids today aren't interested in science and nature...but what do we keep telling them? "Don't go outside in the rain." "What are you getting excited about? It's just snow. I hate snow." Then we wonder why our kids just want to sit in front of a screen for six hours a day. With home weather stations, kids will still stare at a screen, but they'll be learning about the weather. Touch screens and digital displays are nothing new to today's kids, but at least you won't have to worry that your kids might accidentally surf onto porn sites or see graphic violence. Personal weather stations are a great way to: * Help kids decide for themselves whether they need a sweater * Help kids collect data for school reports and science projects * Jump start family conversations at the dinner table * Beat those rainy-afternoon blahs * Show your kids how meteorology works * Make learning a family project Sit down with your kids and teach them how to operate the touch screen home weather station. In no time, your children will be teaching you! So when you purchase a home weather station, you're not just buying another useless gadget--you're making up for, or at least making sense of, well-intentioned parental cliches. Now if only it were this easy to get your kids interested in cleaning their rooms.

Category: Meteorological Weather Stations

Subcategory: Indoor Weather Station

Tip: Infrared Pocket Weather Stations

Baby, it's cold inside. You monitor your indoor weather station night and day but you still can't determine where the cold spots are. All you know is, there's a definite chill somewhere in the upstairs hall. Isd your house haunted? Before you call Ghostbusters, get an infrared thermometer that can supplement your meteorological weather station. Sensitive infrared thermometers will tell you that your upstairs hall is leaking energy through the window sash. But wait...wasn't that window closed just now? No...like most eerie phenomena, this sudden chill has a rational explanation. You notice an overall temperature drop in the house, but you pinpoint a leak in the upstairs hallway, so you seal off the draft. Ahhh. It feels warmer already. Wait. Did you just hear footsteps behind you? There's no one else in the house. Maybe you better take your infrared thermometer and check the rest of the house...or better yet, just watch your indoor weather station. But just in case...who you gonna call? Ghostbusters!

Tip: Same Weather, Different Rooms

Your friends make light of your weather obsession: "The weather won't look any different from the living room than in the bedroom!" You, on the other hand, are a confirmed weather enthusiast...and to be honest, your plants in the front aren't as sturdy as your backyard plants if you detect a 40 mph wind. So you buy an indoor weather

station such as the La Crosse Wireless Weather Station with Remote Sensor Two-Pack. Just make sure to buy a second meteorological weather station sensor for your backyard. You never know if the ficus trees are secure at the roots. Tips for getting the most out of your two meteorological weather station monitors: --Make sure to specify which meteorological weather station sensor you're monitoring, backyard or front door. --If you have one indoor weather station sensor, place it at the side of the house, preferably whichever side, east or west, the wind is likely to come from. --Pay attention to indoor temperatures on both monitors. If your rooms are too hot, you probably need better blinds or tinted window glass. If your friends shiver while enjoying coffee in the living room, you can smile and say, "I'll check the weather monitor here--the one in the bedroom says it's warm inside the house." In-between looking for blankets, your company will ask how they can get two meteorological weather station monitors too.

Tip: Talk To Me, Weather Station

You have glaucoma or at the very least need glasses. But you refuse to let it get in the way of your daily activities. If only they didn't make the numbers on your indoor weather station so small. You have options, the same way you can choose to wear bifocals or have Lasik surgery. Two nifty meteorological weather station choices for the visually impaired: 1) Talking Wireless Indoor/Outdoor Weather Station 2) Indoor/Outdoor Weather Station with Projection Time and Temp You can set your Oregon Scientific BAR321HGA Talking Wireless Weather Station to announce the hour and the weather at desired intervals, especially if you're on your own. It's helpful to have another voice in the house other than the TV, the radio and your own off-key singing. The announcement, "8 p.m., 53 degrees, clear skies," or "5 p.m., 43 degrees, thunderstorm coming," will help you stay connected to the weather, especially if you're homebound. The Lacrosse Wireless Weather Station with Projection Temperature and Time projects the time and temperature onto the ceiling or wall in red letters so you can read the numbers clearly. Just make sure there isn't too much ambient light in the room so you can read the numbers clearly. Set up the indoor weather station receiver to project onto a shadow so you can see the time and temperature clearly. Your eyesight may be troubling you, but you shouldn't give up your passion for the weather.

Tip: Turning Up the Heat on Indoor Weather Stations

It's 100 in the shade where you positioned your remote sensor. Will the heat fry your indoor weather station through your wireless connection? Not to worry. Any heavy-duty professional meteorological weather station has an aspirating fan system that deflects heat radiation. You've heard it before: Radiation interferes with wireless communications. It also can throw off the temperature readings. Ever notice how, when you leave a car out in the heat, the car's temperature inside is higher than the outside temp? The aspirating fan acts like a folding cardboard or plastic windshield protector. This means that the indoor weather station sensor stays cool even though the mercury's

rising. So it's not just you. According to your indoor weather station sensor, it's genuinely hot outside.

Subcategory: Meteorological Weather Station

Tip: Farm/Home Meteorological Stations

You're a farmer. The few, the proud, the farmers. While you live within miles of a scientific weather station, you don't wait for the radio or your computer to tell you what the soil conditions will be for the next planting season. You thought of getting a small outdoor weather station just to check the plots closest to the house. After all, you go out every day, rain or shine. But you can't be everywhere, and you need a meteorological weather station that works as hard as you do. We like Davis Vantage Pro with UV radiation sensors and solar radiation sensors (the sun can be too strong, after all), as well as wireless leaf/soil moisture/temp stations for cornfields. Just make sure to buy wireless signal extenders. Better yet, install your meteorological weather station in a mobile home near the fields. Oh, and don't forget an agricultural/turf weather management software program to track weather in the growing season you specify. You've seen Paris...well, Paris, Las Vegas, but you still love the farm. The weather can't take that away, but thanks to an outdoor weather station, you can thrive and feed the world.

Tip: Meteorological Weather Station Goes to College

Do you have your checklist for college? * Reading lamp. * College logo sweatshirt. Go Blue! * College mug. Go Clemson Tigers! * Coffee maker. * Alarm clock. * Laptop computer. * Meteorological weather station. Hold up. Meteorological weather station? You're a Music Composition major. The only way you'll be interested in the weather is if the university declares a snow day. Plus, you have to plan what to wear so you don't look like a complete freshman. A meteorological weather station can actually help you at college, especially when you move into an apartment off-campus. Depending on the school, utilities may or may not be included, which means you'll be paying your ecooling or heating bill. Plus, you want to save the environment, don't you? Of course you do. College is a time to engage with the world...and look like an upperclassman who's cool (not sweating). If your dorm doesn't allow indoor weather stations, do what college students have always done: Bring one anyway. Causing trouble at college is, after all, on your checklist.

Subcategory: Outdoor Weather Station

Tip: Digital Outdoor Weather Station

The only completely-outdoor weather station you see is a mercury thermometer, weather vane and journal. What hope is there for a digital diva who likes to track the

weather? You can take your digital weather station out in your backyard the way you would if you lived on a farm. You do live on a farm. All right, you recreated "Green Acres" or "The Simple Life" in your backyard and have never set foot on a farm. But you can still have the digital pro meteorological weather station farmers enjoy. The only disadvantage: not being able to monitor how the weather outside affects the interior of your home. Still, you're not interested in what's inside your house. You can read the programmable thermostat, which you've set to 85°F when you're not home or when you're outside. But...goodness, are your chocolate bars melting? Maybe it's time to take the outdoor weather station indoors. And after all, there is a reason why it's called an indoor/outdoor meteorological station. Thank goodness for digital divas!

Tip: Weather Without the TV Remote

Although you get as much snow as Canada, you like the idea of trudging out in your furry boots to read the thermometer on your analog outdoor weather station. Old-fashioned? Nanook of the North? Not you! You just enjoy fresh air and sunshine and, occasionally, snow. Not for you the life of surfing the Weather Channel or the Internet. After all, your ancestors have been reading arrows for centuries. Some hints before you abandon your hot coffee (no lattes for you) to see if you can get your car out on the road this morning: --Make sure your outdoor weather station is sheltered in a box against extreme cold. The complete meteorological weather station sold commercially usually includes a protective shelter. If not, place your outdoor weather station under the eaves. --Consider investing in an analog indoor weather station too, just in case you can't check your outdoor weather station. --Manually clean your rain gauge whenever it fills up. You never know what pollution is in those raindrops. Of course, a digital outdoor weather station could measure the pollution, but you're the rugged healthy outdoor enthusiast. You're a rare, if practically frostbitten breed. Now go thaw in the Starbucks near your office.

Category: Portable Weather Stations

Subcategory: Desktop Weather Station

Tip: Desktop Weather Projection Station

You have desktop alarms, desktop lamps, a desktop PC...your desktop has everything on it except papers! Now, add to the assortment a desktop weather projection station. The attractive La Crosse thermo-hygrometer can sit on your desktop and monitor temperature, humidity, indoor comfort indicator (sometimes you forget comfort when you're trying to find your tax documents), as well as potential storm conditions. Since the La Crosse desktop weather station can be moved, your desk will look less cluttered should you decide to move it to, say, the kitchen table. Make sure, though, that you have outdoor remote sensors positioned in cool, dry locations within range of wherever

you want to move portable weather stations. You're assured the indoor and outdoor weather conditions are favorable. Time to look for those tax documents, and the stereo remote control you had on your desktop five minutes ago!

Subcategory: Hand Held Weather Station

Tip: Angler's and Sailor's Weather Stations

You can't see when the tide is coming in, and you don't want to hit a sandbar or be left high and dry. Also, how can you tell if the winds will come at last to propel your sailboat? Ahoy, there's a hand held weather station for sailors! You want to know when you can best catch a huge sturgeon. If only a portable weather station could tell you where the fishes feed based on tides, sunrises and sunsets, and the phases of the moon. This is no fish tale: You can buy an angler's portable weather station! All you need is: 1) your coordinates for fishing or sailing 2) the time and date of your fishing or sailing trip 3) the port you'll be departing from, if you're sailing Presto--your specialty hand held weather station will calculate the tides and winds, or the location of the fish buffet! If you're a nature lover rather than an aquatic enthusiast, you can buy portable weather stations that predict camping conditions as well as animal movements. Enjoy the sun, surf, water, and fishing thanks to your specialty hand held weather station.

Tip: Lightning's Striking Again

Your Davis Perception II Monitor looks sleek and sophisticated...but you're jittery. After all, you have narrowly missed a lightning strike and were this close to starring on "Storm Stories" or "Unsolved Mysteries." You've seen the Lifetime TV reruns. Your Davis hand held weather station can detect storms, but can it detect lightning? There are hand held lightning detectors that show you: * Range * Approach speed * ETA * Location * Severity If you're in imminent danger, it flashes a "Smile, you're on 'Fear Factor'" message. All joking aside, you can reduce the risk of lightning damage by monitoring your desktop weather station or portable weather station for drops in barometric pressure and by analyzing weather history--when do lightning storms usually descend on your area? Don't forget to use your eyes and remember science class. You see the lightning before you hear the thunder because light travels faster than sound. But it's best to check your lightning detector and not be out where the lightning might strike you. You want your name in the paper someday, but not because you forgot to buy portable weather stations.

Subcategory: Portable Weather Station

Tip: A Weather Station with News and Tunes

Portable weather stations come with backlights, with time displays, storm alerts...and Frank Sinatra? A portable weather station with music? The Midland WR300 Weather

and Public Alert Radio with AM/FM is a hand held weather station. It doesn't monitor temperature, barometric pressure or rainfall, but it picks up NOAA alerts and even nuclear plant accident warnings. Say you want to switch to the oldies station when you're surfing at the beach. The radio portable weather station will break into "Surf City" to warn you about an approaching storm front on the coast where you're having your beach picnic. If you want to monitor weather conditions yourself, a hand held weather station is a good investment in addition to the weather alert radio. Ol' Blue Eyes was always prepared, and that's why he's still singing about rain in his heart as well as foggy days in London town.

Tip: Portables and Poolsides

You need to know if the pool water is 80 degrees for the party tomorrow, since you see that tomorrow will be 60 degrees according to your portable weather station receiver that you keep in your bedroom...you know, looking onto the pool area. You could get a pool thermometer or sensor, but honestly, the cabanas tend to block the signals. Should you hire a pool man? Too late...you only budgeted for the pool. You are the pool man. If your portable weather station with the basic sensor is an Oregon Scientific, you can buy the Wireless Pool and Spa Thermometer System with an antenna receiver that can get around the cabanas. Oh! The floating pool and spa thermometer transmits to your portable weather station monitor, and makes a great conversation piece...second only to your new swimsuit. Break out the lemonade and frozen fruit concoctions, because the pool is 80 degrees and the hot tub will make your guests think they're on vacation in the tropics. Of course, your plastic flamingoes don't exactly make your pool area Tahiti in miniature, but your desktop weather station can keep the party smooth nonetheless.

Category: Setting Up a Weather Station

Subcategory: Home Made Weather Station

Tip: Home Made Doesn't Mean Crude

Your home made spice rack is the envy of your arts class. You cobbled together your own quadrophonic stereo system. But can you build a weather station that goes beyond a weather vane and a thermometer? At the very minimum, you'll need a... --strong wind-resistant thermometer that stakes in the ground --sturdy wooden or metal box --shady spot in your backyard or on your porch --manual rain gauge --barometer --manual hygrometer The best spot to set up this low-tech home made weather station is in the north side of the building or wherever there is the most shade. You don't have to skip style when setting up a weather station that you've built from basic weather equipment. Outdoor wooden or metal thermometers and barometers can be elegant as well as functional, adding to the decor and outward appearance of your home. The only problem: Reminding yourself to check the weather station now that you have it installed.

An atomic clock with alarm and temperature can be an excellent reminder, and validate the data you've collected with your home made weather station. You're not a slave to technology, but you did set up that stereo system.

Tip: Home Made Weather Station Accuracy

Decisions, decisions: do you follow the experts or do you trust your own backyard wisdom when setting up a weather station? You check your analog thermometer, and rush inside to look at the Weather Channel. Your weather journal shows that high and low temp, high and low barometric pressure, lag behind or exceed the Weather Channel. How can you trust your home made weather station? Or is it the multi-billion dollar weather forecasting industry that's wrong? Actually, like all weather systems, a home made weather station responds to changes in air pressure. It's receiving local conditions within your microclimate. When you build a weather station, you tailor it to suit your environment. No two microclimates are alike. Different weather conditions have been recorded in two similar vineyards in Napa Valley. Even your pool area won't have the same temperature as your front yard. You can understand your local market without doubting the national trends. In fact, you might even be able to help the weather industry by supplying local data. Backyard home made weather station wisdom and technology can work hand in hand.

Tip: Kids and Weather Stations

Your digital monitors may be cool and educational, for your children. But there's no question children learn by doing, and spend too much time staring at electronic gadgets. The next time your child wants to play with your weather station, help her build a weather station all her own. Setting up a weather station with your child is a wonderful way to teach: * Weather principles * Weather safety * Measurements * Science principles * Being prepared, such as knowing when to wear rain gear to school Your local science museum or library will have resources on how to create a home made weather station. You usually need simple materials: * Rulers * Containers for rain collection and barometric pressure readings * Arrows for wind "sensors" * Arrows for hygrometers to detect humidity * Notebook so kids can keep track of weather conditions * Paper cups and plates for homemade anemometers * Regular thermometer You and your future meteorologist can learn about weather together while setting up a weather station that may not be high-tech, but will definitely be educational. Your child will probably have more fun with it than with the digital monitor!

Tip: Kitchens and Modular Weather Stations

You have a kitchen right out of HGTV. As a matter of fact, HGTV is your source of wisdom. When you saw that HGTV recommended the Oregon Scientific modular weather station, you knew that you just had to set it up, preferably in your kitchen. That's where you spend the most time, after all, and it's right outside the kitchen garden

you created. You want to know what's going on with your asparagus even when you can't get down in the dirt. You detach the three monitor modules and display them around your kitchen counter. But should they all be in your kitchen? Perhaps one monitor could stay in the bathroom you're redoing? When setting up a weather station, except for analog backyard stations, it's wise not to cluster monitors together. The whole point when you build a weather station is to make weather forecasting easier. No matter how much you love your kitchen, there are some HGTV ideas you want to try in the kids' room. You can monitor your garden from there. Just make sure the one remote sensor is positioned within 90 feet of whatever you're monitoring. You can get wireless repeaters to extend your reach at least 300 feet. However, if your heart is set on the kitchen and you want to build a weather station for the kitchen, you can cluster the monitors together and watch the combined monitor as you wash your fresh asparagus for a recipe you discovered while watching HGTV.

Subcategory: Setting Up a Weather Station

Tip: Protecting Weather Stations Against Weather

We've heard of a weather sensor being destroyed by lightning. True? Yes. You can predict the weather but you can't control it. When you build a weather station, how do you know if your sensors are weatherproof? Usually the coatings on the sensors will be waterproof and free of UV interference or radiation. You can prevent "lightning rod" rooftop sensors by placing wind direction monitors and remote sensors on tripods firmly staked in the ground within wireless range of the main indoor unit. If you must have a high-gain antenna that can gather weather information from several miles away, let the lightning story be a warning. Make sure your system can temporarily survive without an antenna and that you have backup sensors. You can attach a lightning rod to your antenna for double protection. After all, you don't want to be the "News of the Weird" story on the Internet about a weather forecaster getting hit by lightning while setting up a weather station.

Category: Weather Instruments

Subcategory: Barometers

Tip: Uh Oh, The Barometer is Dropping

Your heart rate is up, your blood pressure is down, but oh no, according to your barometer weather station instrument, so is the barometric pressure. Whether you measure it in hectopascals or millibars (1,000 millibars=1 bar=100,000 Newtons acting on one square meter), the pressure above sea level has declined. That can only mean one thing: A storm is coming. A barometer, along with a rain gauge and wind direction sensor, is an excellent way to predict storm activity. You need to check weather history to

find out the average barometric pressure for your reading. Is it 999 hPa or 61 mb? If the pressure readings drop, and the wind velocity is up, you're in for a thunderstorm. Just make sure you check both surface and sea level readings, since barometric pressure levels can vary depending on whether you're on a mountainside or on terra firma. Just make sure your blood pressure doesn't rise. Be calm, be cool. You've been forewarned. Now if only we could predict heart attacks so easily.

Subcategory: Weather Station Instrument

Tip: Best Rain Gauge Sites?

You stepped outside without your umbrella and you're already soaked. What did Mom always tell you? "Take an umbrella in case it rains." "Take your raincoat." "Don't place your rain gauge less than a foot above ground level, especially if there are trees around." Huh? Mom knows that she's talking about. She also has the following advice: * Place rain gauges away from other weather instrument sensors such as a wireless thermometer or barometer, since the signals can interfere with each other. * Mount the rain sensor on a pole or post away from sources of dirt and grime--but most rain gauges are self-cleaning (unlike your room, Mom says). * If your rain gauge is cabled, check cables to make sure that rain spillage hasn't caused shorts or a possible fire. * Place rain gauges at twice the height of obstructions to get the most accurate readings. * Don't just rely on your rain gauge for storm detection! Check wind direction, look at your barometer, and take the air temperature with a wireless thermometer. Finally, always remember your raincoat and boots. Don't forget to call your mother once in a while, either.

Tip: Detecting Dewpoint around Doors

Your front and back doors won't open in August, keeping your in-laws out (good) and the kids indoors (bad). Why? Check your weather station instrument, especially your home monitor unit. A wireless thermometer and hygrometer will detect both the rise in temperature and the accompanying rise in dewpoint. A dewpoint above 60 percent means the in-laws have to pull the door open (your brother-in-law was captain of the wrestling team and looks like Charles Bronson), and a dewpoint of 80 percent means even your father-in-law's long-winded monologues can't coax the door open. Meanwhile, the kids are plotting the Great Escape through the roof. Adjust your air conditioning and fans before the dewpoint reaches critical. Use your wireless thermometer and hygrometer to track shifts and rises in air moisture so you can calibrate your air conditioner to combat the sticky-door effect. A little WD-40 on the hinges never hurts, either. Now your in-laws are in for the evening and your kids are outside playing. Just keep monitoring every home weather instrument you have so you never find yourself trapped indoors with your children and your in-laws, or you'll pull a jailbreak worthy of Steve McQueen.

Tip: Flash Flood Warnings on the Road

If you're lucky, you've never experienced a flash flood. According to Weather Doctor Keith C. Heidorn, most flood-related deaths are flash flood-related. Even more astonishing, half of those fatalities happen in or around cars. A fifty-fifty chance? Those odds wouldn't help you in Vegas. But knowing the facts will help you avoid flash floods. The question is, can a weather station instrument better your odds? When the barometer rises and the temperature rises, it means pleasant summer days, but the downside is intermittent rain. You can track rainfall in your rain gauge. If your weather station monitor forecasts rain while the rain gauge history and thermohygrometer indicate a moisture buildup, you might want to avoid driving if you can. If you live in a desert or mountainous area with no vegetation to absorb the rain, stay off the roads. If you must drive, avoid washes, bridges, highway dips and traveling downstream from a dam. Your survival odds have improved, but don't try your luck at Caesar's Palace yet. As with God and Mother Nature, all bets are on the house.

Tip: Thermostats and Wireless Thermometers

Programmable thermostats. You remember the routine. 78 when you're at home, 85 when you're not. But can you flex your power and sync your wireless thermometer with your thermostat so your thermostat will automatically lower the temp? Thanks to smart home technology, that day is coming, but for right now, you'll just have to rely on your own old-fashioned initiative. Still, a wireless thermometer can help you set your programmable thermostat more effectively. Of any weather station instrument--rain gauge, barometer, wind direction sensor--the wireless thermometer is the most important for home comfort and energy savings. You can check your thermometer history on your weather station software to determine when the house is hottest and when it's coldest. Say that your bathroom feels like a blast furnace in the morning when you're dressing and your wireless thermometer says it's 80 degrees inside. You can set your thermostat to 76 or 78 degrees between 5 to 7 a.m. You'll dress in comfort, and save energy! So until you buy the house of the future, flex your power and keep your wireless thermometer handy.

Subcategory: Wind Direction

Tip: Digital or Turbine-Based?

Is that a fan in your hand? It's not hot--in fact, your wireless thermometer said this morning that the outdoor temp was 30 degrees. No, it isn't a portable fan, it's a turbine-based anemometer. While digital is inconspicuous (your friends carry enough electronic devices to supply Radio Shack), turbine-based wind direction sensor stands out. But it's better than you blowing about in the wind like a TV reporter in a hurricane. A turbine-based wind direction and velocity sensor can actually be more accurate than a digital one. We like the Davis Turbo Meter Electronic Wind Speed Indicator or the

LaCrosse Technology Hand-Held Anemometer, a weather station instrument combining the turbine wind direction/velocity sensor with a digital display that includes the wind chill. Now that the temperature is warm again, everyone wants the fan in your hand. Your cell phone never attracted this much attention--especially since it just predicted a gale headed this way.

Tip: Driving Like the Wind

Cell phones, drive-through fast food, the radio...now you have another distraction to contend with on the road: the wind. And the temperature. Do you want to add a wireless thermometer weather station instrument and risk a traffic accident? Maybe so. You don't want to be surprised when the wind hits your car (which feels scary given all the stories about road rage), but you want to drive safely. Some hints for tracking weather on the road: * Check your hand-held wind direction sensor in the parking lot and in the driveway. * Like cell phones, you should avoid using wind direction sensors when you're in heavy traffic. * Use cell phone mounts, clips and car organizers to keep your wireless thermometer and other weather station instrument within sight so you can just glance at them while keeping your eye on the road. You've determined that you have to drive eastbound against the wind. Drive more slowly, since wind can delay traffic, especially in sandy areas or construction areas with debris. Many GPS navigators track weather as well as traffic and travel routes, but until you buy a GPS navigator to distract you, a wind direction sensor can be a valuable automotive resource. Thank goodness companies don't make a rain gauge you can check in the car.

Category: Weather Station Equipment

Subcategory: Weather Station Kits

Tip: Freezers and Weather Station Kits

You have a deep freezer that would make Martha Stewart jealous, but unlike Martha, your deep freeze can easily evade monitoring. It's difficult in a shielded area for weather station equipment to monitor temperature. After all, you want to know if the beef you're saving for your chateaubriand or hamburger special has freezer burn. Weather station kits may not come with deep freeze sensors, but you can buy the Oregon Scientific THC268 Cable Free All Weather Thermo Sensor with Waterproof Probe, which cuts through freeze signal interference and cold as easily as Martha slices through cloth for decoupage. If you want to monitor your beef when you're away from home, program a temperature alert for your weather station software that you can access from your laptop. After all, you want to get Martha's advice on how to best cook chateaubriand, and she wants to learn about your weather station equipment.

Tip: Weather Station Tripods

Your roofing contractor needs to move your antenna and wind direction sensor for several weeks. While your home is being reroofed, you don't want to mount your Davis Vantage Pro weather station equipment on the wall...especially since you're repainting the house. Your weather forecasts keep telling you, so far, so good, the fine weather is holding. But what will hold your sensors aloft? If you're a photographer, you know the answer: Tripods. A telescoping tripod, a minimum of 2-3 meters high, positioned at a straight-line distance from your wireless receiver, will lift your anemometer and temperature sensor. In most weather station kits, tripods are optional, but they're a great investment. Now you can thank your roofer for working so hard when you ensure that weather conditions are safe.

Subcategory: Weather Station Measuring Equipment

Tip: Philippe Starck and Measuring Equipment

You love the style and function of Philippe Starck. But wait--aren't you supposed to be thinking about measuring equipment rather than an attractive-looking clock? After all, the whole point of weather stations is to measure. It's a mistake to think that only a heavy duty pro weather station can give you the best forecasts. Atomic clocks are weather station kits in themselves. Philippe Starck is no exception. The Philippe Starck Large Multi-Red display atomic clock can support up to four remote sensors: one indoor and three outdoor. But can it connect with barometers and other weather station equipment? No need. It already measures indoor and outdoor humidity from its remote sensors, and even the Large Basic version gauges barometric pressure as well as high, medium and low tides. So don't worry about wanting designer weather station kits. Just make your decision: yellow, red, or gray display?

Category: Weather Station Software

Subcategory: Computer Weather Station

Tip: Don't Ignore the Main Weather Unit

Hal 9000 may have been paranoid, but your home weather station main receiver won't revolt if you view soil readings from May to August on your PC or Mac. Even without homicidal LaCrosse main unit receivers, you shouldn't rely solely on your weather station software. After all, you bought the weather station to get away from those weather displays on your desktop or laptop. There are some things you can't find on the Internet. If you're locked into analyzing weather data on a computer weather station, you'll forget to check outside for: * That humid damp-shirt feeling, which your hygrometer tells you is the dewpoint rising. But your weather station said you had 10 percent humidity and your WeatherLink software indicates that the humidity will be low

in the next month. * Your garden. Why do the plants look so wilted? You have them on automatic sprinkler system connected to the WeatherLink. Is this a conspiracy? * The frost damage. Your weather trends analysis said there wouldn't be heavy frost, but the elements have battered your wooden shingles. * The comfort zones in your house. Isn't it too chilly in here? Your fuel usage analysis said you didn't need to heat your home as much...hmmm. Relax. You're probably feeling guilty about spending so much time with your nifty new software, which can stream data from several different sensors. Just make sure your home receiver unit doesn't feel lonely.

Tip: Garage Band Data

"Kids, don't leave the hose on in the garage." "We didn't." "Then why does my PC weather station say the humidity is 70 percent in there? It was minimal a month ago." "We didn't touch the hose. Dad did." Then you remember...your husband washed the car last week and replaced the hose as he always does. But as usual, he forgot to turn off the hose...immediately, that is. Naturally, he caught the error...but now you have a problem. The garage is damp. While your hubby is cooling the garage with several fans and adjusting the thermostat, you're smiling. Thanks to your PC weather station, you monitored the moisture in the garage. The downside: your upholstery project is worse for wear, but your hubby can fix that too. Now you can check the data in the basement where you have your darkroom. How do you keep track of these zones? You set your software to record and track data from several different sensors and label the data "Garage," "Basement," "Greenhouse," and "Pool." That way, you'll remember that, oops, you left the pool cover off. By the time your hubby finishes his chores, you'll have the problem fixed...but first, your kids want you to show them your computer weather station. They'll be sure to remind your husband to turn off the hose, because Mom's watching!

Subcategory: Weather Station Software

Tip: Storm Data Backups

Quick weather station software quiz: How often should I back up my weather station software data? Unless you want all your data to be lost because of a storm, back up your data the minute your home receiver sends a storm warning alarm. Most weather station software will store data for up to two weeks, but it's up to you to create computer backups for longer periods. Some tips: * We recommend backing up your data on CD-RW. * If you can buy higher-end tape drives, do so. * If you're uploading data onto a weather Web site, make sure your Web hosting service makes regular data backups. * If you do CD-RW backups, make multiple copies and store some in the freezer or safe...just in case the power goes out and the continued humidity you've been tracking overheats your CD-RW copies. * Invest in surge protectors for your weather receivers and your PC weather stations so power surges don't short them out. Now that you've predicted a blizzard's coming thanks to your software and your eight months of reports,

you can back up your data with complete confidence.

Tip: Weather Station Software and Celeron

You don't clog your computer with spyware thanks to StopZilla and SpyBot. Your Gateway operating system is Windows 98 and your processor is 300 MHz. Do you need to upgrade to a Gateway with a Celeron high-speed processor to run weather station software? Windows users know full well that bugs in older OS versions can make even the fastest processor produce the "hourglass waiting" cursor. Make sure your operating system is, well, operational. Fortunately, weather station software doesn't require a lot of disk space or computing speed by itself, but if you're creating an extensive weather database, you might notice lag times. If you can't upgrade from your dinosaur, don't try to run a virtual Web server with your weathercam. System performance affects bandwidth and data transmission speed. You might have the most wonderful PC weather station or Mac computer weather station, but if your current Web weather info says it's storming outside when there hasn't been any rain in a month, you have a problem. That said, remember you're not in the long-term weather forecasting business, so your computer will probably limp along in the short-term. Still...you bought your weather station to predict the weather, so shop around for a new model. Don't forget to keep fighting spyware. You want weather alerts, not Viagra popups.

Category: Weather Stations

Subcategory: Digital Weather Station

Tip: Storm Interference

You were so excited when you bought your Davis digital weather station, but the only way you can tell if you'll get rain showers this evening is to look out the window. Your digital won't do diddly-squat. Some tips to keep in mind before you trot down to the store to return your home weather station: * Aluminum siding or aluminum covering your roof will block wireless signals between your outside hygrometers and your digital home unit. You're better off with a cabled system. * While many digital weather station systems will work with your computer, some won't, especially if you have a Wi-Fi laptop. Too much signal interference will prevent your weather station from working. * Make sure the batteries are fully charged. Invest in a battery recharger. * Make sure your indoor station is positioned within range of the outdoor wind/temperature sensors and hygrometers. Now you don't have to look out your window to watch the wind...unless it's a beautiful evening and you want to gaze outside.

Subcategory: Weather Station

Tip: Hot, Hot, Hot=No Weather Station?

It's 90 degrees and sunny...again. Your local weatherman is scanning the trades for a job in Minneapolis. What's a weather enthusiast to do when the weather doesn't change? Actually, in hot or mostly frozen/rainy climates, weather stations can be of great use. You don't just use weather stations to keep track of unpredictable weather. Some uses for weather stations in climates that don't vary: * Predict humidity for those "dry heat" areas * Predict snowfall so you can decide when to make a run to the store * Let you know when the rain will let up (Seattle, are you listening?) * Detect variations in dewpoint, which can signal changes in weather * Keep track of cooler days and nights so you know how often to water plants in hot climates and how to regulate your automatic sprinkler system (don't waste water!) * Measure pollen counts for the allergy-prone * Detect wind changes (in the California desert, blowing sand can be a problem) While you're at it, pass on this information to the local weatherperson...after all, always-warm weather isn't such a terrible fate, is it?

Tip: International Weather Station

As if you didn't have enough to contend with abroad. Lost luggage, a case of the runs, lines at the airport, plus difficulties with electrical appliances... You've been transferred to Australia or you have a fancy to live in Hong Kong. Most weather stations will work internationally. However, it may be wise to find a local substitute for your US radio-controlled or wireless product. Weather stations with atomic clocks in your host country will set themselves according to the local signals. Other tips for staying wired to the weather abroad: * Make sure there is a wireless weather tower where you live. If possible, research the country coverage. * Buying from a local supplier makes sense, since you don't want to always order from the US. You don't want to deal with surcharges, customs, and mail delays. * Choose an international antenna adapter, e.g. American International. * Have local suppliers install your digital weather station. It's always good to have help when you need it! Now if you could just get your cat or dog out of quarantine and be sure you won't insult anyone with your command of the language, your international worries will be over.

Tip: Outdoor vs. Indoor

Your weather vane looks a trifle old-fashioned in a neighborhood full of DirecTV dishes, so you bought an outdoor weather station such as the WeatherHawk. However, you hate going outdoors to check your weather station...you're hardly the one-with-nature type. In that case, an indoor weather station is for you. Even combination outdoor/indoor weather stations such as the Oregon Scientific Complete Wireless Weather Station will work if you can bribe your spouse or kids to maintain and check it for you. Now you can get back to watching the Discovery Channel. If, on the other hand, you don't mind the weather vane clashing with your satellite dish, you can build your own analog weather station with a mercury thermometer and rain can that you clean yourself. If you love high-tech, you can install the digital weather station and enjoy your backyard sanctuary.

Your climate and lifestyle may decide the issue for you. If you're not in good health, if you're not often home, or if the climate is perpetually rainy/snowing/too hot, an indoor system is your best choice. And yes, you can keep the weather vane.

Tip: Wall Weather Stations

One more handheld gadget to keep track of and you think you'll just lose it. Here's one idea that will leave you thunderstruck...or, thankfully, not. You can combine a wall clock with weather sensors. Choose a digital wall clock that has a built-in weather station. Like all weather stations, a wall clock/thermometer combo measures the barometric pressure, even through stone, stucco or adobe. It can be quite stylish with optional wood finish, and in any case, will look cool in your home...better, at any rate, than you look trying to juggle your PDA, cell phone, remote, and baby monitor. Some tips: --Always place clock weather stations in areas without too much electronic interference, such as hallways and rooms without computers and television sets. --Make sure the area is well lighted and the display is easily readable. --Don't hang too many paintings or posters near the weather station or the wall will look cluttered. --Place wall sconces on either side of the weather station to enhance its LCD glow. Above all, don't mistake the remote control for your TV remote or GameBoy. Consider getting a remote or handheld caddy.

Tip: Why a Home Weather Station?

You have weather reports online—great, yet another bit of information to overload you. You have the newspaper, and let's not forget the Weather Channel. What would anyone need with a home weather station, other than the “isn't it cool” feeling you get when you order a digital weather station out of, say, the Sharper Image catalog? We all know that weather affects us in ways we can't measure. Here are some signs you might need a weather station. * You put sweaters on your tomato plants just in case there's a drop in temperature. * You have allergies and you sneeze even before the pollen count rises. * You wonder whether your uncle's arthritis can predict the weather, but frankly, your uncle falls asleep too much to be useful. * You have kids. Enough said. * You have a medical condition such as fibromyalgia that's makes you sensitive to sudden changes in temperature. Unlike the latest news about Brad and Angelina, or depressing news about the latest forbidden food or plane disaster, weather is news you can use. You can't change the weather, but you can choose not to wait for your uncle's foot to tell you when it's going to rain.

Category: Wireless Weather Station

Subcategory: Digital Wireless Weather Stations

Tip: Digital Wireless Temperature Monitors

The kids haven't complained of chills in the pool, but your daughter definitely has the sniffles. The plants can't talk, but your parsley has wilted. It's too hot in the greenhouse and too chilly in the pool area. Your wireless weather station isn't keeping up with the conditions inside the house or immediately outside, even though you can tell down to the minute when it's going to rain. Fortunately, digital wireless weather stations have solutions, namely wireless remote temperature sensors that tell your desktop or wall unit whether the pool is caliente or your kids need sweaters when they get out.

Steel-tipped probes sense drops in temperature and send them to the home unit. Cool

Tip: Your sensor needs to be in an area free of obstructions, so don't hide it in your tomato plants or near that poolside replica of the Winged Victory. When your daughter has the sniffles, you can be sure that she caught it from the germ factory known as school and not because the pool water is the wrong temperature.

Tip: Jumbo Digital Wireless Readouts

You don't need bifocals or multifocals, even though you stare at a monitor, a petri dish, or do fine-motor tasks all day. So why would you need a large LED display in your digital wireless weather station? A large digital wireless weather station LCD display is a benefit. There's no chance of misreading, say, dewpoint, mistaking a 50 percent prediction for an 80 percent prediction. (Dewpoint, by the way, is the measure of how heavy and moist the air is--at 80 percent, people wear hats. Indoors. In air conditioning.) If you're a serious weather aficionado, you want to read the rainfall and the phases of the moon at a glance, as well as note the time the barometric pressure starts to drop. A large wireless home weather station digital display gives you clearer readings. Effective home lighting in the rooms where wireless weather stations are located will also enable you to read the display more clearly. Outside, a large LCD readout cuts down on the visual pollution and compensates for fading light, clouds (which your wireless weather station predicted would come) and dust. So don't misinterpret your best friend's gift of a jumbo display wireless weather station as a sign that you need to sit a little closer to the TV.

Tip: Same Sensors, Different Temperatures

Your outdoor weather station sensor says that you don't need a jacket. When you go out for the evening, you shiver all night and it's not because your date is attractive. When you return home to check your indoor temperature sensor, it tells you what your goosebumps have been saying all night. Indoor and outdoor sensors for wireless weather stations are designed for different environments. The heat sink for your indoor sensor shields against interference, although your outdoor wireless home weather station sensors should guard against radiation too. You get a more accurate reading indoors. In addition, your outdoor sensors have to detect temperature at a much greater range. In wireless weather stations, the greater the sensor range, the less accurate the readings will be. --Use temperature sensors compatible with or at least made by the

same manufacturer as your wireless weather station. --Unless your outdoor sensors are solar-powered, place them in cool dry spots for best results. You have your wireless weather station configured correctly. Now when you get goosebumps, you're wearing a jacket...and your date could be the love of your life. Your new pickup line: "Want to come back to my place and see my temperature sensors?"

Subcategory: Wireless Home Weather Station

Tip: Radiation and Wireless Weather Stations

You successfully hooked up yet another wireless device: your indoor or backyard wireless home weather station. You never counted on radiation from your television, heater or other heat source to frustrate you and make you pull your hair out at the interference. Now you look as though a strong wind came up and blew away your hair. Your family scratches their heads: wasn't this \$400 wireless weather station supposed to predict strong winds? Before you go for the Rogaine, take your wireless weather station back and exchange it for wireless weather stations with radiation shielding. Radiation shielding inside a Davis Instruments or Oregon Scientific wireless home weather station protects against harmful reflected or radiated heat. The shielding usually houses the transmitter, and the battery as well, so you won't have to buy "C" batteries when you're shelling out cash for a year's supply of Rogaine. N.B.: Handheld wireless weather station indicators normally don't have radiation shielding, whereas complete wireless weather station kits do. Handhelds, especially aluminum portable wireless weather stations, may not require radiation shielding. So the next time you're tempted to tear your hair out while configuring a wireless home weather station, make sure it's because the instruction manual is confusing and not because you're dealing with radiation.