

Block Those Spam Texts!

by Vanessa Kier

If there's anything more annoying than spam marketing, it's spam that costs me money. Since I'm on a pay-per-text plan, every time I receive a text on my cell phone from a spammer, it comes out of my pocket.

Luckily, there's a way to block most of these texts.

The first thing you should do is to check whether the texts are coming from another phone number, or if they're coming from an email address. Yes, something I didn't know until recently, your mobile carrier assigns your cell phone number an email address. When I checked the spam texts I received, I found that all of them came from email addresses. This happens when the spammer sends out mass emails to random phone numbers in a format similar to this: randomphonenumber@txt.att.net.

Your wireless carrier should allow you to block all texts from email and the internet. Here are the steps for AT&T, Verizon and Sprint:

AT&T Wireless

1. You will need to register your phone at *mymessages.wireless.att.com*. This is a separate site from the AT&T account management site and that login information will not work here.
2. Once you've registered and have logged in, go to *Blocking Options*.
3. For Email delivery control: Check the boxes for *Block all text messages sent to you as email* and *Block all multimedia text messages sent to you as email*.
4. For Mobile Number Control: Choose *Block* from the drop down list.
5. *Submit* to save.

Verizon Wireless

1. If you already have an online Verizon Wireless account, log in at *verizonwireless.com*. If not, you need to register and create an account.
2. Once you've logged in, look under the *I Want To...section* at the bottom.
3. Under *Plan*, choose *Block Calls & Messages*.
4. This will bring up the screen for blocking calls from specific phone numbers. Ignore this.
5. In the box to the right labeled *Related Actions*, choose *Block Internet Spam*.
6. This will bring up the *Internet Spam Blocking* page.
7. You can enter specific email addresses to be blocked in the boxes at the top. Since the email addresses of spammers don't stay the same, blocking their specific addresses probably won't cut down on your spam.
8. To block all text messages from the web and from email, at the bottom of the screen check both boxes under *Message Blocking Preferences*.
9. Click *Apply* to save your changes.

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Sprint:

1. Create a text message.
2. Type in: block email.
3. Send it to short code 9999.

These options should take care of most of the spam texts you receive. ***You will still be able to receive phone-to-phone texts from your family and friends, which is the standard way of sending texts.***

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