SOFTWARE & TECH

How To Block A Phone Number

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Introduction: Taking Control of Your Peace of Mind

In an age where our phones are constantly buzzing with notifications, the last thing anyone needs is an unwanted interruption from a persistent telemarketer, an ex-partner, or a spam caller. Whether you are dealing with nuisance calls at work or simply trying to protect your personal time, knowing **how to block a phone number** is an essential digital skill. Blocking a number is not just about silencing a ringtone; it is about reclaiming your privacy, reducing stress, and maintaining boundaries. This guide will walk you through every major platform and device, ensuring that no matter what kind of phone you own, you can stop unwanted calls with confidence. From smartphones to landlines, and even carrier-level solutions, we cover all the bases so you can finally enjoy a quiet, interruption-free day.

The process of blocking a number has evolved significantly over the past decade. What once required a call to your telephone provider or a special device can now be done in seconds with a few taps on a screen. Yet, many users still struggle with the specific steps, especially when switching between Android and iOS or dealing with older home phone systems. This comprehensive resource is designed to remove the guesswork. By the end of this article, you will have a clear, step-by-step understanding of how to block a phone number on any device, how to manage blocked lists, and what to do when the basic blocking features are not enough.

Blocking a Number on iPhone (iOS)

Apple has made blocking contacts and unknown callers relatively straightforward. The process is consistent across recent versions of iOS, so whether you are using an iPhone 12 or the latest iPhone 15, these steps will work for you. There are two primary methods: blocking from the Phone app and blocking from the Messages app. Additionally, you can use the Silence Unknown Callers feature to automatically block numbers that are not in your contact list.

Blocking from the Phone App

1. Open the Phone app on your iPhone.
2. Tap on the Recents tab at the bottom of the screen to view your call history.
3. Find the number you wish to block. It can be a known contact or an unknown number from your call log.
4. Tap the small blue "i" (information) icon located to the right of the number.
5. Scroll down to the very bottom of the contact details screen.
6. Tap "Block this Caller" and then confirm by tapping "Block Contact".

Once blocked, calls from this number will be sent directly to voicemail, and text messages will not be delivered to your inbox. The caller will not receive any notification that they have been blocked, which is important for privacy reasons. If you ever change your mind, you can unblock the number by going to **Settings > Phone > Blocked Contacts** and swiping left on the number to remove it.

Using the Silence Unknown Callers Feature

For a more aggressive approach to spam, iOS offers a feature called **Silence Unknown Callers**. When enabled, any call from a number that is not in your Contacts, Messages, or Mail apps will be silenced and sent to voicemail.

This is excellent for blocking robocalls and telemarketers, but it also means legitimate calls from people you have not saved could go to voicemail. To enable this, go to **Settings > Phone > Silence Unknown Callers** and toggle the switch on. You can review the calls that were silenced in your Recents list under the "Silenced" tab.

Blocking from Messages

If you are receiving unwanted text messages, you can block the sender directly from the Messages app. Open the conversation, tap the profile picture or the "info" button at the top, then tap the "info" icon again. Scroll down and select **"Block this Caller"**. This is particularly useful for blocking spam SMS or persistent messaging from a specific individual.

Blocking a Number on Android (Samsung, Google Pixel, and Other Brands)

Android devices offer a great deal of flexibility when it comes to blocking numbers, but the exact steps can vary slightly depending on the manufacturer and the version of Android you are using. However, the core logic is the same across most devices. You can block from the Phone app, from the Contacts app, or through the Settings menu. Many Android phones also include a built-in spam detection feature that automatically identifies and blocks suspected spam callers.

Blocking from the Phone App (Stock Android and Samsung)

1. Open the Phone or Dialer app. This is typically the green icon with a phone receiver.
2. Tap on the Recents tab to see your call history.
3. Locate the number you want to block and tap on it to open the call details.
4. Tap the three vertical dots (menu) in the top-right corner of the screen.
5. Select "Block numbers" or "Block/report spam" from the dropdown menu.
6. Confirm your choice by tapping "Block".

On Samsung Galaxy devices, the process is nearly identical, but you may also see an option to **"Add to Auto Reject List"**. This is just Samsung's term for the blocked list. Once added, calls and messages from this number will be automatically rejected.

Blocking from Contacts

If you have a contact saved that you no longer wish to hear from, you can block them directly from the Contacts app. Open the contact, tap the three dots in the corner, and select **"Block"**. This is often faster than searching through your call history.

Using Spam Protection and Call Screening

Modern Android devices come with robust spam protection features. Google's Phone app, for example, includes a **Caller ID & Spam** feature that can automatically identify and block known spam numbers. To enable this, open the Phone app, tap the three dots, go to **Settings > Spam and Call Screen**, and toggle on **"See Caller ID & Spam"** and **"Filter spam calls"**. This is an excellent first line of defense against robocalls and telemarketers.

If you own a Google Pixel, you also have access to **Call Screen**, which uses Google Assistant to answer calls and screen them for you. You can set it to automatically decline spam calls or to screen calls from unknown numbers. This is one of the most advanced call management features available on any smartphone.

Blocking a Number on a Landline

Blocking a phone number on a landline requires a different approach than on a smartphone. Because landline technology varies widely depending on your service provider and the type of phone you have, there are a few

methods you can try. The most straightforward way is to use **call blocking services** provided by your telephone company. Many providers, such as AT&T, Verizon, Comcast, and others, offer call blocking features as part of your subscription or as an add-on service.

Using *60 or *77 Codes

Some landline providers support vertical service codes like ***60** (Call Blocking) or ***77** (Anonymous Call Rejection). For example, dialing *60 on your landline may activate a menu where you can enter the number you wish to block. To access this, pick up the handset, dial *60, and follow the voice prompts. You will typically be asked to enter the 10-digit number you want to block, then press the pound key to confirm. To unblock a number, you can dial *80 in many cases.

Using a Call Blocking Device

If your provider does not offer a built-in blocking service, you can purchase a standalone **call blocking device** that connects to your landline phone. These devices allow you to block specific numbers, unknown callers, or even entire area codes. Popular models include the CPR Call Blocker and the Digitone Call Blocker. Simply connect the device between your phone and the wall jack, and follow the manufacturer's instructions to add numbers to the block list.

Registering with the Do Not Call List

While not a direct blocking method, registering your landline number with the **National Do Not Call Registry** (in the United States) can significantly reduce the number of unsolicited telemarketing calls you receive. It is a free service, and your number remains on the list permanently. Legitimate telemarketers are required by law to scrub their call lists against this registry. However, it will not block calls from scammers or political organizations.

Blocking a Number via Your Mobile Carrier (AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile, etc.)

Sometimes, blocking a number on your phone is not enough, especially if the caller is using a spoofed number or keeps calling from different lines. In these cases, you can turn to your **mobile carrier** for more robust solutions. Most major carriers offer call blocking and spam protection services, either for free or as a paid add-on. These services work at the network level, meaning the call never even reaches your phone.

AT&T Call Protect

AT&T offers a free app called **AT&T Call Protect** that automatically blocks spam calls and provides nuisance call alerts. You can also manually block specific numbers through the app. For more advanced features, such as reverse number lookup and custom block lists, AT&T offers a paid version called AT&T Call Protect Plus.

Verizon Call Filter

Verizon has a similar app called **Verizon Call Filter**. The free version includes spam detection, spam filtering, and the ability to block specific numbers. You can also report numbers as spam directly from the app. The paid version, Call Filter Plus, adds caller ID for unknown numbers and a personal block list with unlimited entries.

T-Mobile Scam Shield

T-Mobile offers **Scam Shield**, which is one of the most comprehensive free services among major carriers. It automatically blocks all suspected scam calls, provides caller ID for unknown numbers, and allows you to create a custom block list. You can also set Scam Shield to "Block All" if you only want to receive calls from people in your contacts. The app is available for both iOS and Android.

Using a carrier-level solution is often more effective than blocking individual numbers on your phone because it can

adapt to new spam numbers and block them before they even ring your device.

Blocking Spam and Robocalls: Advanced Strategies

Spam calls and robocalls are a growing nuisance worldwide. While blocking a single number is easy, the problem is that spammers often use **caller ID spoofing**to change the number they are calling from each time. This means that blocking one number may not stop them. To combat this, you need a multi-layered approach that combines the features we have already discussed with third-party apps and best practices.

Third-Party Call Blocking Apps

If your phone's built-in features and your carrier's service are not enough, there are several highly-rated third-party apps that specialize in robocall and spam blocking. Apps like **Truecaller**, **RoboKiller**, **Hiya**, and **Should I Answer?** use community-based databases to identify and block spam numbers. These apps can automatically silence unknown numbers, block entire area codes, and even provide a transcript of voicemails that were screened. Truecaller, for example, has a database of over 3 billion numbers and can identify incoming calls even if the number is not in your contacts.

When using a third-party app, be sure to review the permissions it requires. Some apps need access to your contacts and call logs to function effectively. Reputable apps will clearly explain how they use your data and will offer privacy controls. Always download these apps from official app stores to avoid malware.

What to Do When Blocking Doesn't Work

In rare cases, a blocked caller may still be able to leave a voicemail or send a text message. This can happen if the caller

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