NYC Digital Safety
Privacy & Security

Managing SMS Settings

Learn tips and tricks for managing your SMS settings to help you avoid spam.

1. What Are Some Signs of Spam Texts?

Spam messages don't just arrive via email. Increasingly, people are getting spam texts. These messages can be annoying and obnoxious, as well as potentially dangerous and harmful.

Spam messages are often ways to deliver a phishing scheme, a scam, or potential malware to you. The aim of these messages is to trick you into doing something (like clicking a link) or revealing personal information that can let a scammer steal your information or your money.

Here are some signs of a spam text:

- It comes from an unknown number
- It seems really random. The message might contain an unexpected offer or a warning out of nowhere
- It has suspicious links
- It has lots of spelling or grammatical errors
- It sounds urgent

Spammers and scammers often obtain your phone number via data breaches. It can be difficult to keep your phone number completely hidden, but there are things you can do to manage these kinds of messages!

2. How Can You Use SMS Settings to Help?

Phones feature a variety of SMS settings to help you manage your messages. Some of these settings provide ways for you to manage notifications and alerts, or to customize your texts with emojis or animations.

However, SMS settings are also a powerful tool to help you manage potential spam messages and to help you enhance your digital security.

Each phone has different kinds of SMS settings and features that allow you to manage spam messages. You can also find suggestions from your respective wireless carrier on ways to manage text spam.

Here are some things you can do with your SMS settings to help you manage spam texts:

- **Block numbers:** To stop receiving texts from specific numbers
- **Report spam:** Forward texts to 7726 or SPAM on all phones to report the spam to your wireless carrier
- **Turn on spam filters:** This helps filter out potential spam messages and separate them from messages you might be receiving from known contacts
- **For further protection:** You might consider installing a third-party app to protect you from spam, like RoboKiller