

SMS Settings

In This Module

- How can you recognize text spam?
- How can you use SMS settings to block and manage spam texts?

SMS Settings

SMS settings are options that exist on cell phones to let you manage and customize how you receive text messages

These settings can be used to filter, block, and report spam texts and help you avoid encountering or accidentally interacting with spam

Managing Your SMS Settings

- SMS settings can be used to:
 - Filter and block unwanted messages
 - Report spam texts
 - Help you avoid encountering or accidentally interacting with spam

Managing Your SMS Settings

Scammers often obtain phone numbers via data breaches. It's hard to keep your number hidden and private, but you can use SMS settings and other security best practices to help you avoid falling for spam and scams.

Signs of Spam Texts

Generally speaking, spam texts:

- Come from an unknown number
- Seem pretty random
- May contain suspicious links
- May have lots of spelling or grammatical errors
- Can sound urgent

Spam Texts and Scams

Remember, spam texts are ways of sending you phishing schemes or possible malware. They have a good bit in common with things like spam calls and email phishing schemes.

Using SMS Settings to Block Spam

- Block numbers to stop receiving texts
- Forward texts to 7726 or SPAM to report spam to your wireless carrier
- Turn on spam filters to:
 - Help filter out potential spam messages
 - Separate them from messages from known contacts
- For further protection, you might consider installing a third-party app to protect you from spam, like [RoboKiller](#)

Activity

Can you find information about the SMS settings for your particular phone and wireless carrier?

Takeaways

- Text spam is increasingly common. It is annoying and distracting, and can be potentially dangerous since these types of messages can expose you to scams, schemes, or malware
- Your SMS settings can be tools to help you manage and avoid these kinds of messages
- Remember, different types of phones have different options for SMS settings, so be sure to see what is available for your particular phone
- SMS settings can help you block, report, and filter spam messages

Resources

National Do Not Call Registry ([link](#))

FTC Guide to Recognizing and Reporting Spam Texts ([link](#))

“How to avoid falling victim to online, email, and phone scams” from *The Guardian* ([link](#))

Questions?

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