



## NO JUNK MAIL PLEASE!

Junk mail that comes through on your e-mail is called 'spam' and it makes me so mad that my head could just literally pop! It clogs inboxes, spreads viruses and costs money! Spam is unsolicited advertising e-mail sent in bulk to large numbers of people to promote products and/or services. "Spamming" is done indiscriminately, and because an e-mail costs nearly nothing to send, "Spammers" have taken this as an open invitation to send as much crap as they can to as many people as they can. Typical, there is always some idiot out there trying to spoil everyone's fun! The really annoying element of spam is that the recipient ends up paying the vast majority of the cost receiving the unwanted mail, Grrrrrr. Spam is considered a serious breach of Internet etiquette; it is incredibly rude, annoying and in some places, it is illegal. So what do you do if you are getting spam? You may have to look at initially changing your email address. This is because once you are on a "Spammers" list; there is no way of getting off. Attempts to unsubscribe will only confirm to the "Spammer" that you have a real address and you will get even more mail. Start by setting yourself up a couple of email addresses, the first one should be private and only given out to trusted contacts. Make the second email a web based address (like hotmail or yahoo) use this when you need to register on a web site and provide an e-mail address and also, give it to unknown contacts. This is because some web sites will sell and/or circulate your address to "Spammers". You are then free to forward any legitimate mail from your web based e-mail to your private e-mail at your discretion. The web based address can then be abandoned quickly if it falls onto a mailing list, leaving your private address unscathed. Once abandoned, just grab another web based e-mail address. This technique will not protect you completely from spam, but it is good practice and fairly reliable. On top of this technique, you could use any one of the multitude of anti-spam programs available for free on the internet e.g. spamtrap or mail2web (just to name a few). These programs handle the spam problem in varying ways, depending on your specific needs. Check them out. And lastly, if anyone ever admits to you that they are a "Spammer", be sure to pop open their nose for me. There's nothing worse than a dirty, rotten spammer!

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