

Block calls on your phones and other options

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Whether cell phone or landline phone, we all receive many nuisance calls daily. It is a simple matter to block unwanted calls on most phones once you know how.

Let's begin with your home landline phone. I receive numerous junk calls every day. I use a Panasonic smart home phone system. Like most smart home phones, it permits you to enter your phonebook. You can also set the number of rings before the answering machine kicks in. The LCD on my phone will show me the name of anyone calling who is in my phonebook. Conversely, any name not in my phonebook will also show. The first time I receive a nuisance call I ignore it. My phone will record the name and number of all calls made and keep this information until I erase it. How do I block an unwanted number? I have choices.

My Panasonic will block up to 250 phone numbers. In my case, I use Spectrum (Time Warner) for my landline. You may go to the Spectrum website and block selected calls. You may also check the box that tells Spectrum to use Nomorobo.com. Nomorobo is a large database of nuisance calls. You will hear one ring, and the call will be blocked. For those of you who use other phone providers, you still may use Nomorobo provided the provider has a Simultaneous Ring feature that will ring your phone and Nomorobo at the same time. Furthermore, you may request Nomorobo to add phone numbers to its database by going to its website. Your provider, like mine, may also have a way to block calls on its website.

What about my cell phone? It is even easier to block unwanted calls. If you have an Android phone, just go to Recent Calls, select the phone number and then Details. Under Details you will see a choice to block the call. Depending on the Android version finding the Recent Calls Details varies.

What about you iPhone? Basically, it works the same way if you have IOS 7 or later. Open the phone app. Select the Recents tab at the bottom. Click the 'i' symbol next to the unwanted number, scroll down and tap Block this Caller. Confirm your decision. Microsoft cell phones work in a similar manner. Tap the phone app on the start screen, swipe to history, tap and hold the caller you want to block, and tap block number.

I also have one other option using my Panasonic phone system. You may link two cell phones to the Panasonic phone system. When linked via Bluetooth, the main Panasonic phone unit will show a lighted LED, one for each linked cell phone. When a cell phone call comes in, it will ring on your Panasonic landline system as well as your cell phone. Likewise, you may use the Panasonic system to call out on either of your cell phones. When you finally drop your landline system, the Panasonic Phone system, in my case with five phones around the house, will be a godsend. With unlimited cell phone service

becoming extremely cheap, this is an option. Now you can answer or call over your cell phone network from any phone in the house. Even more, the Panasonic system has much better sound.

Hopefully, when you have activated some of the above features, you will have some peace and quiet.