

How to Stop the Telemarketing Phone Calls

More than 7.7 million people work in the telemarketing industry, so chances are, if you have a phone, you're going to receive calls. Here are some tips to keep from receiving annoying calls.

In 2001, Colorado passed legislation that allows consumers to protect themselves from many unwanted telemarketing calls. As of June 1, 2003, consumers may add their wireless telephone numbers to the no-call list. If you do not want to receive telemarketing calls or faxes, you may add your residential, wireless, or fax telephone number(s) to the Colorado No-Call List, or learn more about the rules that govern the No-Call list on their website.

Colorado No-Call List

www.coloradonocall.com

Sign up: 1-888-249-9097

Complaints: 1-888-600-5688

Send your name, address, and telephone number including area code to:

Telephone Preference Service

Direct Marketing Association

P.O. Box 9014

Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

(212) 768-7277

PhoneDisc

5711 South 86th Circle

Box 27347

Omaha, NE 68127

(800) 284-8353

Take advantage of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. It requires that telemarketers who call or fax you must put you on a "do not call" list – IF YOU ASK. Keep a record of your request. If they call again within one year you can sue them in small claims court. You may still receive calls from charities, since they are exempt from the law.

ALERT! Denver Post – 11-10-02: Watch out for the latest scam: fake “do-not-call” lists.

“Many people seeking relief from telemarketers’ phone calls, particularly those at home during the day, have signed up with do-not-call registries offered by state governments, the Direct Marketing Association and individual companies. Now, a new group of scam artists is capitalizing on the services’ popularity by soliciting consumers to join such lists. At best, you get swindled out of a few dollars; at worst, you give them personal information such as your Social Security or credit-card numbers that can be used to steal your identity. “They either claim to be with a government agency or with a legitimate nonprofit organization that can either help a consumer get on a do-not-call list or verify that they are on it, and of course, there’s a fee for this service,” says Susan Grant, director of the National Consumer League’s National Fraud Information Center. “In fact, there might be a small charge to sign up for a do-not-call list. But states don’t call consumers to solicit them. It’s all they can do to handle the number of incoming calls they have from consumers.” The problem has gotten so bad that the Federal Trade Commission’s Bureau of Consumer Protection issued an alert about the problem, and is asking people receiving such calls to report them to their state attorney general’s office or the FTC at 877-382-4357 or www.ftc.gov.”