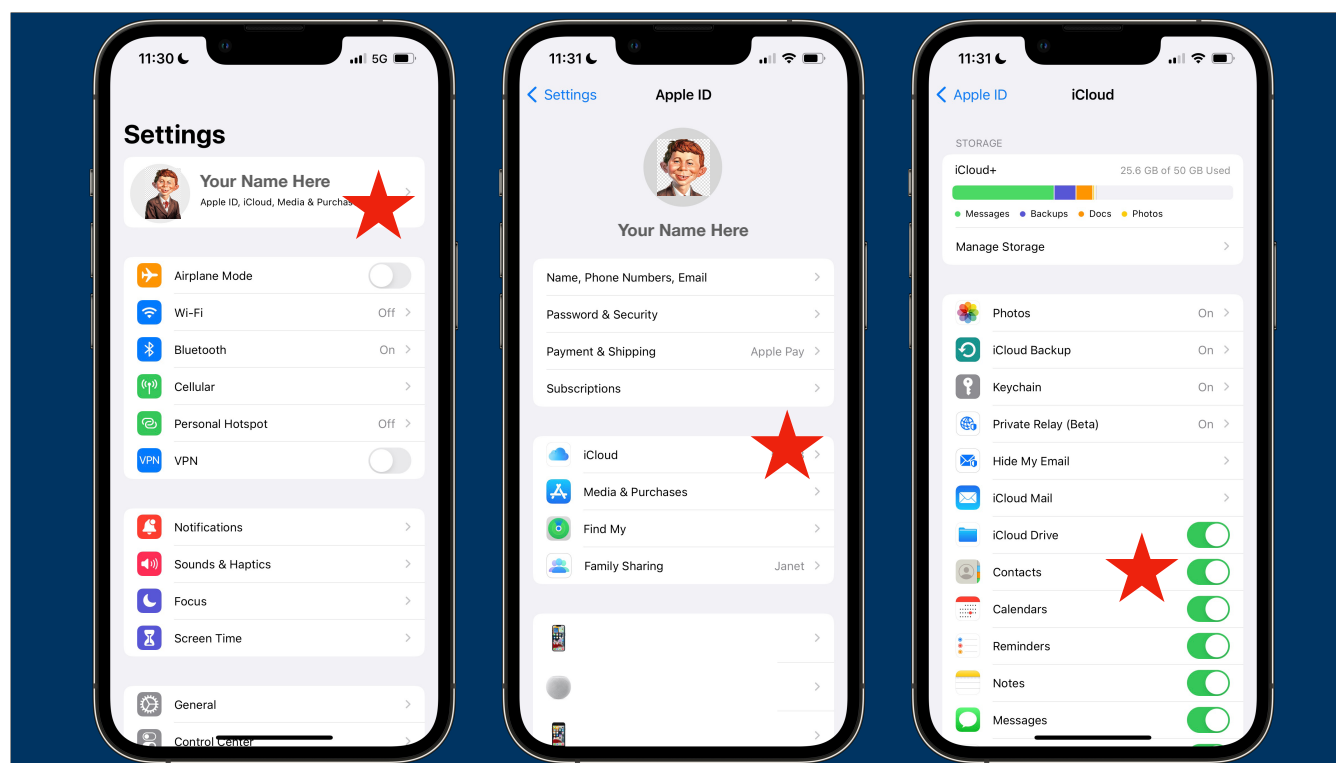




# Block Unwanted Email from Specific Email Addresses & Domains On iPhones · iPads & Macs

Stephen Huston — April 28 2022

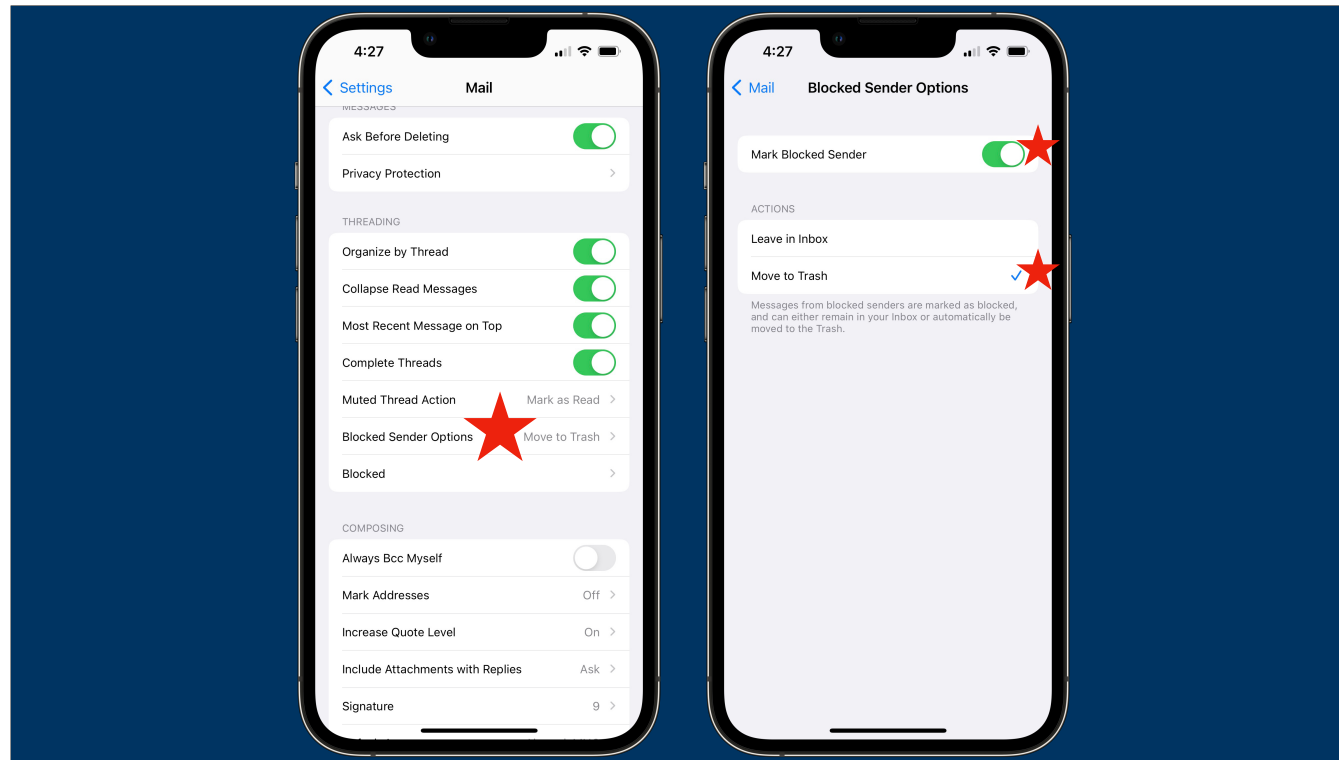
Blocking unwanted emails once required editing "blacklists" on mail servers or programming email Rules on Mac, while iPads and iPhones didn't even support Rules or provide Mail-blocking Settings. Now email blocking is easy on all of our devices right from the Mail app - if the correct settings are enabled. I'm going to show you the correct Settings on each device, then after that, we'll show you what to do in Mail when you want to easily block someone.



We'll start with the Settings and blocking process for the iPhone. On ALL of our devices, it is important to have our Contacts stored in iCloud for mail blocking to work the same across all of our devices. On the iPhone, start at the top of the first Settings screen, and click on the Apple ID. Next select iCloud, and there make sure Contacts is turned on for iCloud syncing.

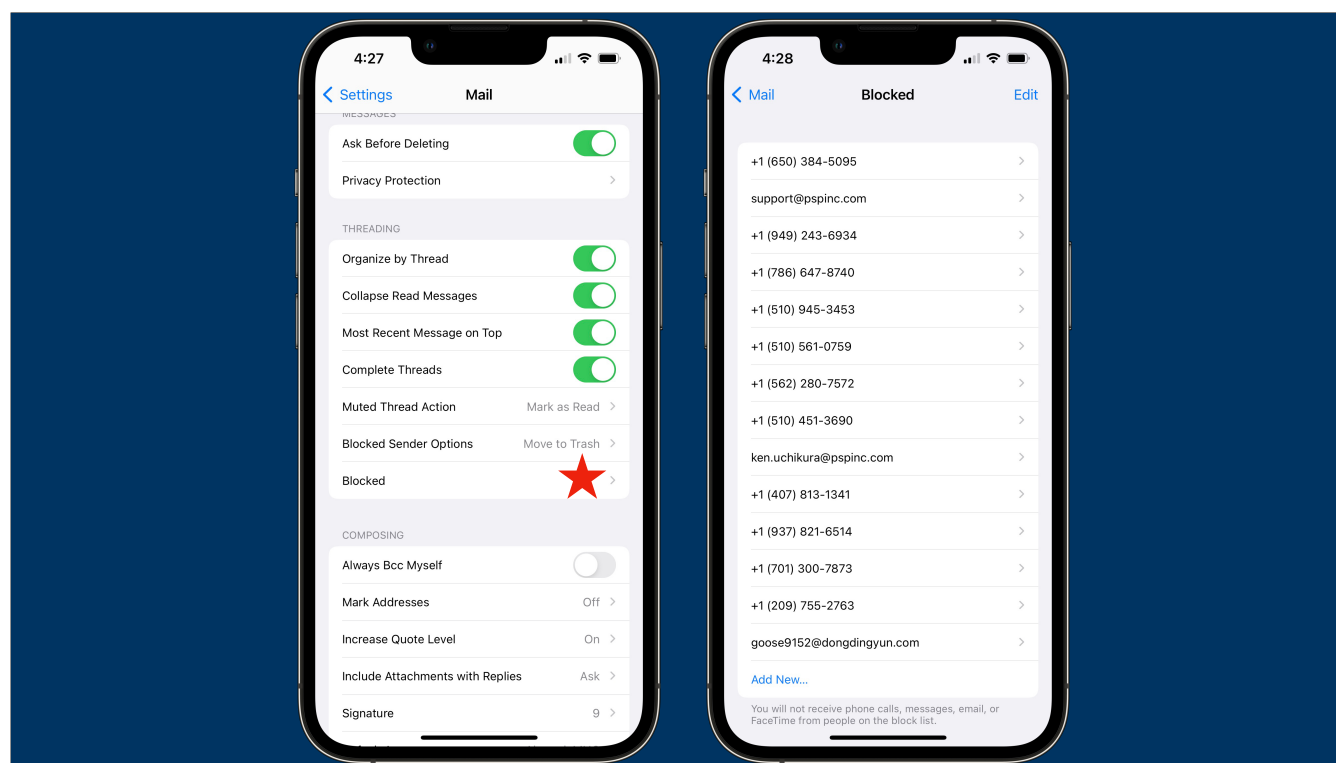


Now we go back to the first Settings screen on the iPhone. Scroll down to Mail and tap on it. Then scroll down on the next screen to the section titled Threading. There we see the last 2 items are Blocked Sender Options and Blocked. First well go to Blocked Sender Options.

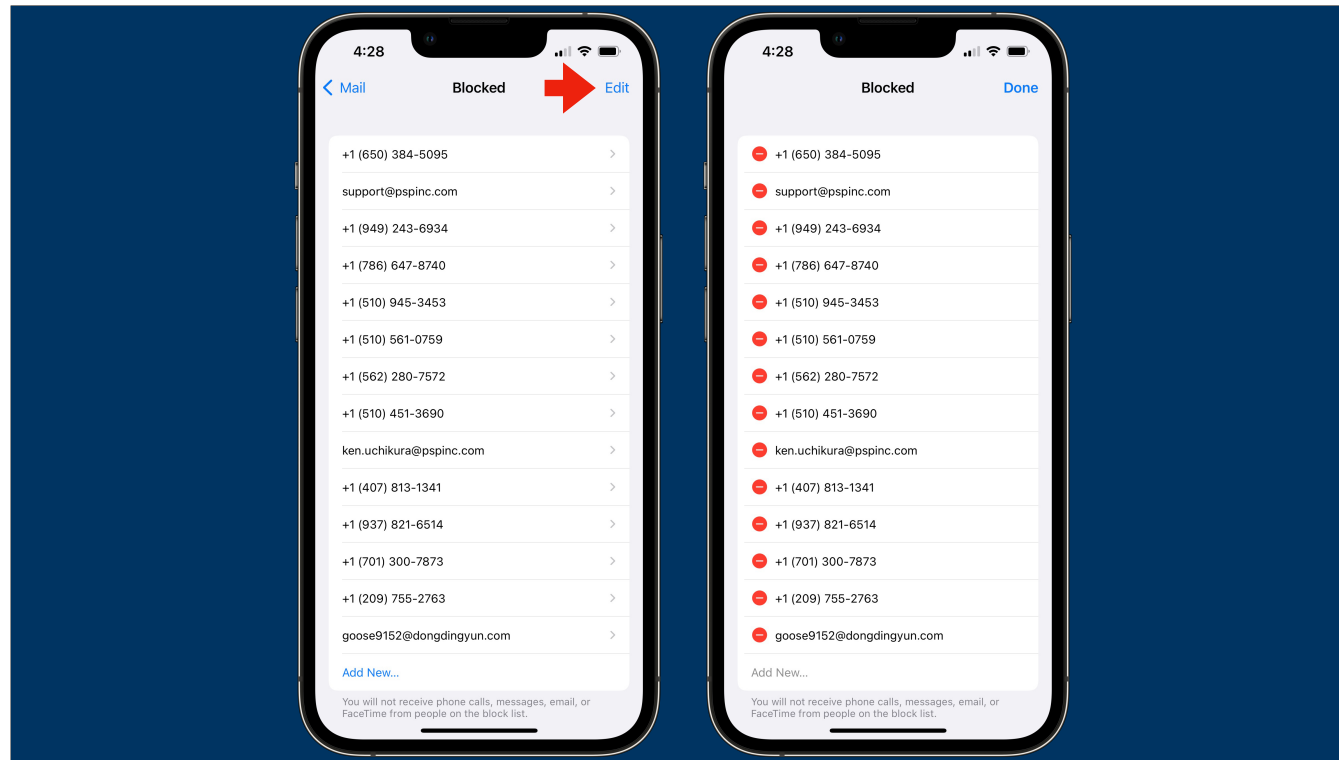


The Blocked Sender Options screen opens to 2 more settings. First be sure that Marked Block Sender is switched ON - Green. That reveals two options for what to do with a blocked sender. I suggest that you choose the second option, to move it to the trash rather than leaving it in the inbox with a blocked indicator. You can always go look in your trash if you really want to, but WHY?

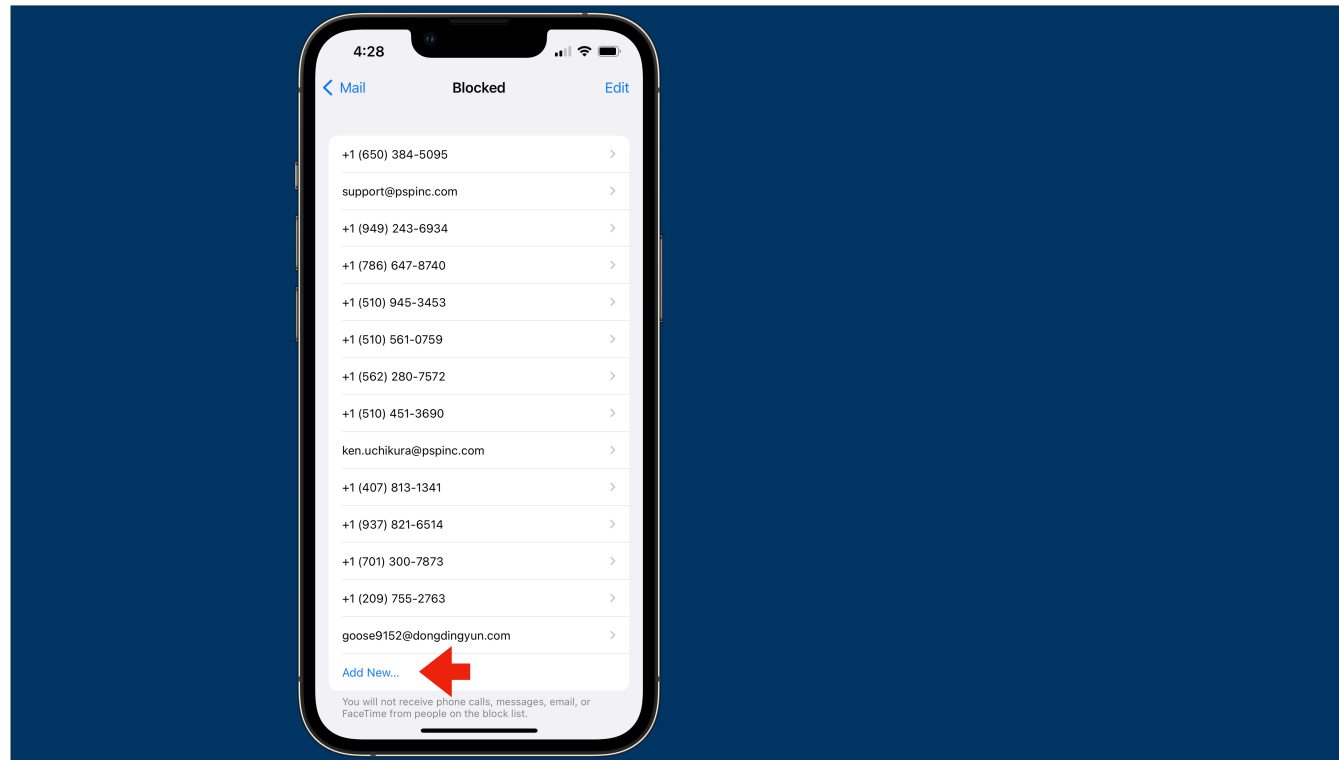




Now let's back up to the Mail Threading options on the previous screen, and go down to the Blocked line at the end of that section. Tap on it to reveal the actual list of what you have already blocked - if anything. Note that at the top right of the screen is the word EDIT in blue, and at the bottom left is blue text to Add New....



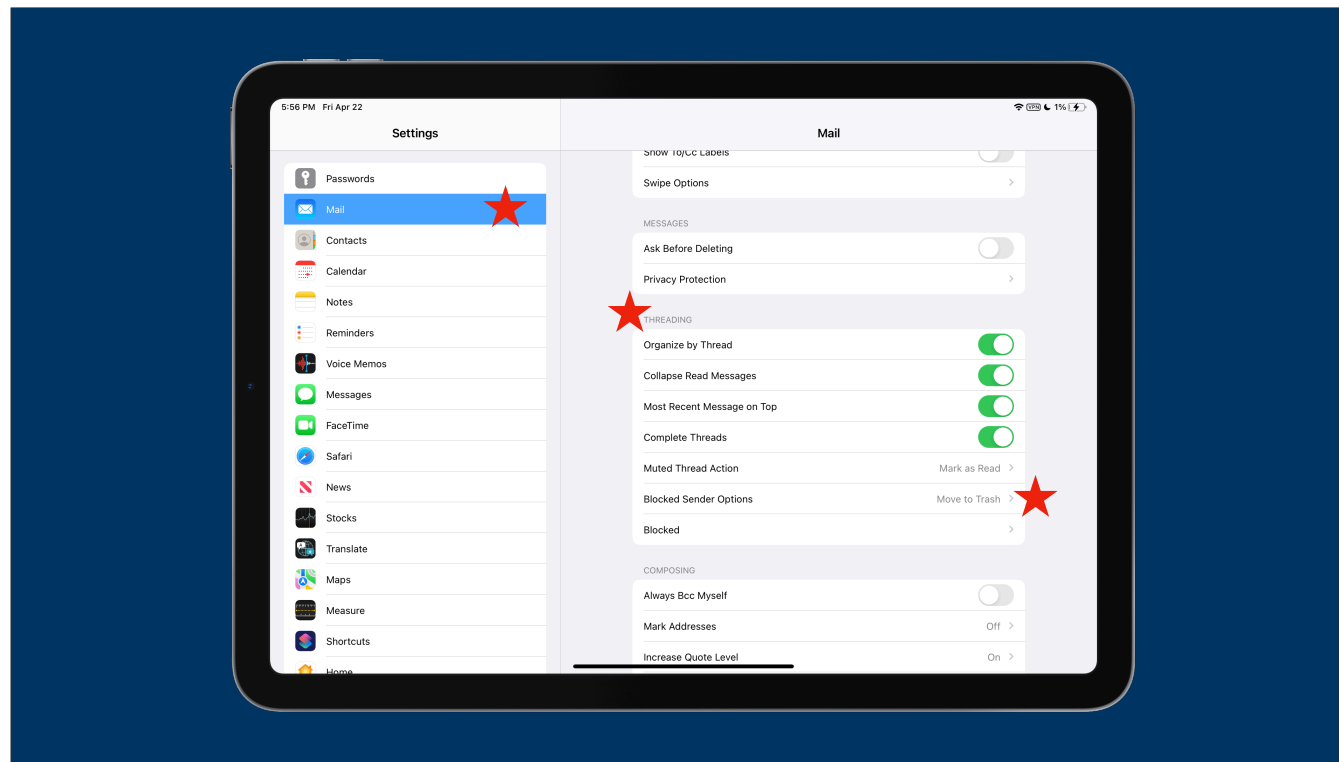
Edit will give you the option to remove a number from your Blocked list if you no longer want it blocked.



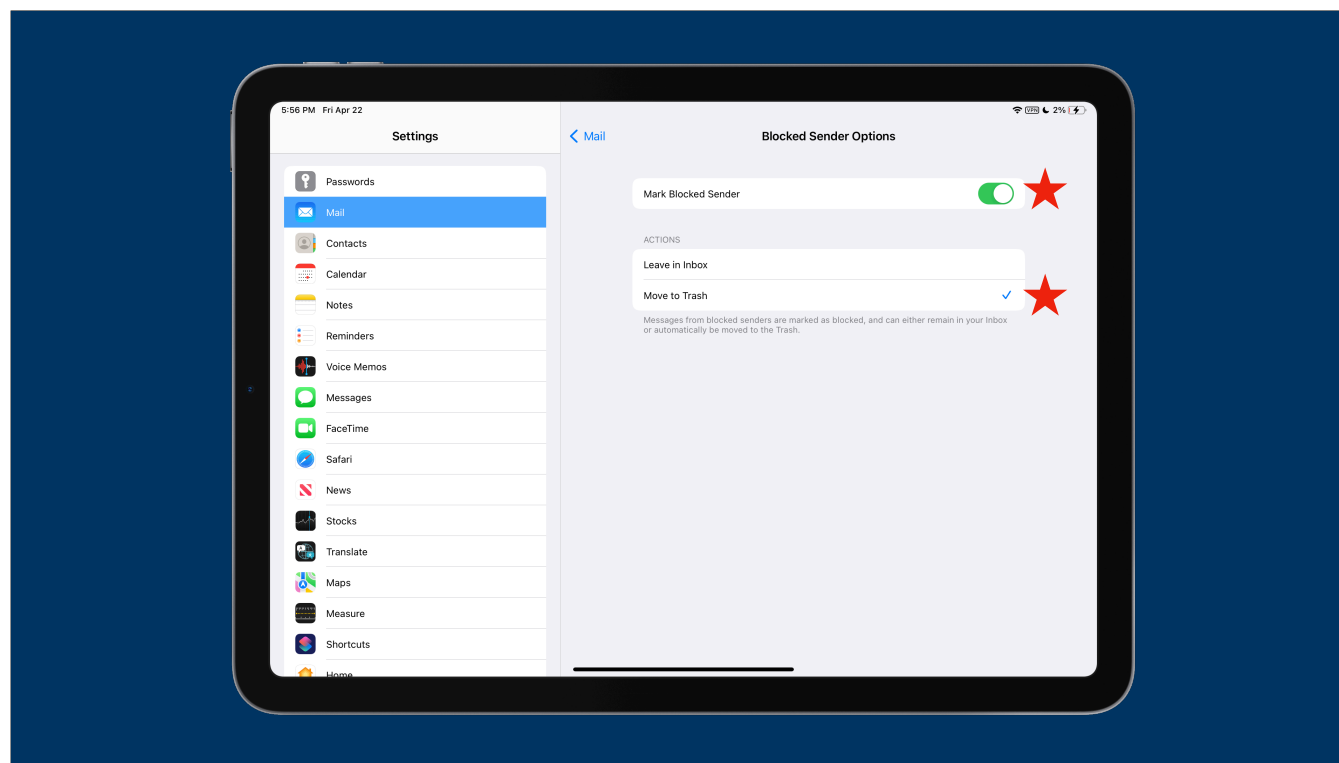
Add New... will give you the option to pick an existing Contact from your list to Block. This action done here only works with existing Contacts. What you probably want is the ability to pick and email while you are in Mail and add it to the blocked list. We'll cover that in a live demo when we're done with the Settings for all devices.



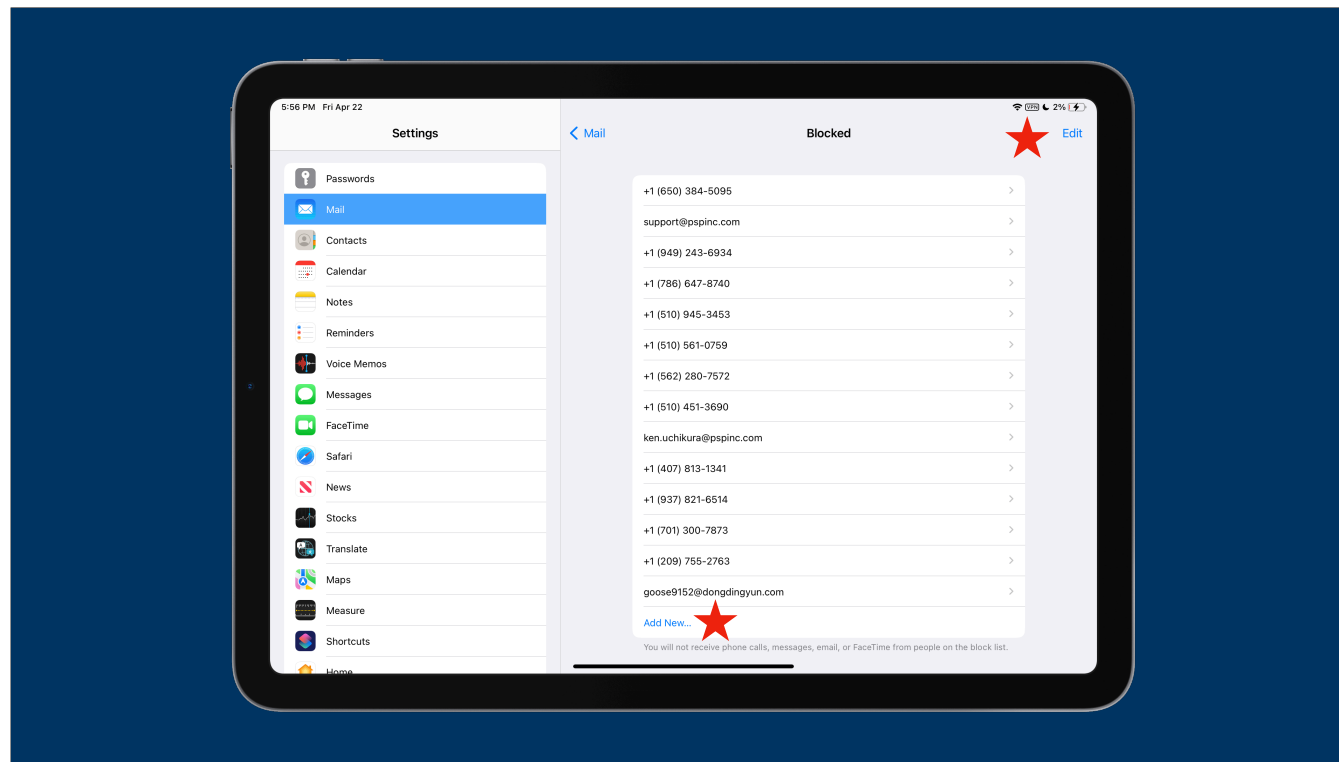
Let's move on to the iPad. Again, we want to be sure our Contacts are stored in iCloud so that our list of Blocked Contact information will be the same across all devices. Tap on your Apple ID section at the top of the left panel, and on the right side, find iCloud and tap on it. The right panel will change, and you can check to be sure that Contacts is turned ON- green - for iCloud storage.



In Mail, scroll down to the section for Threading, and locate the Blocked Sender Options, 2nd from the end of that section. Tap on it.

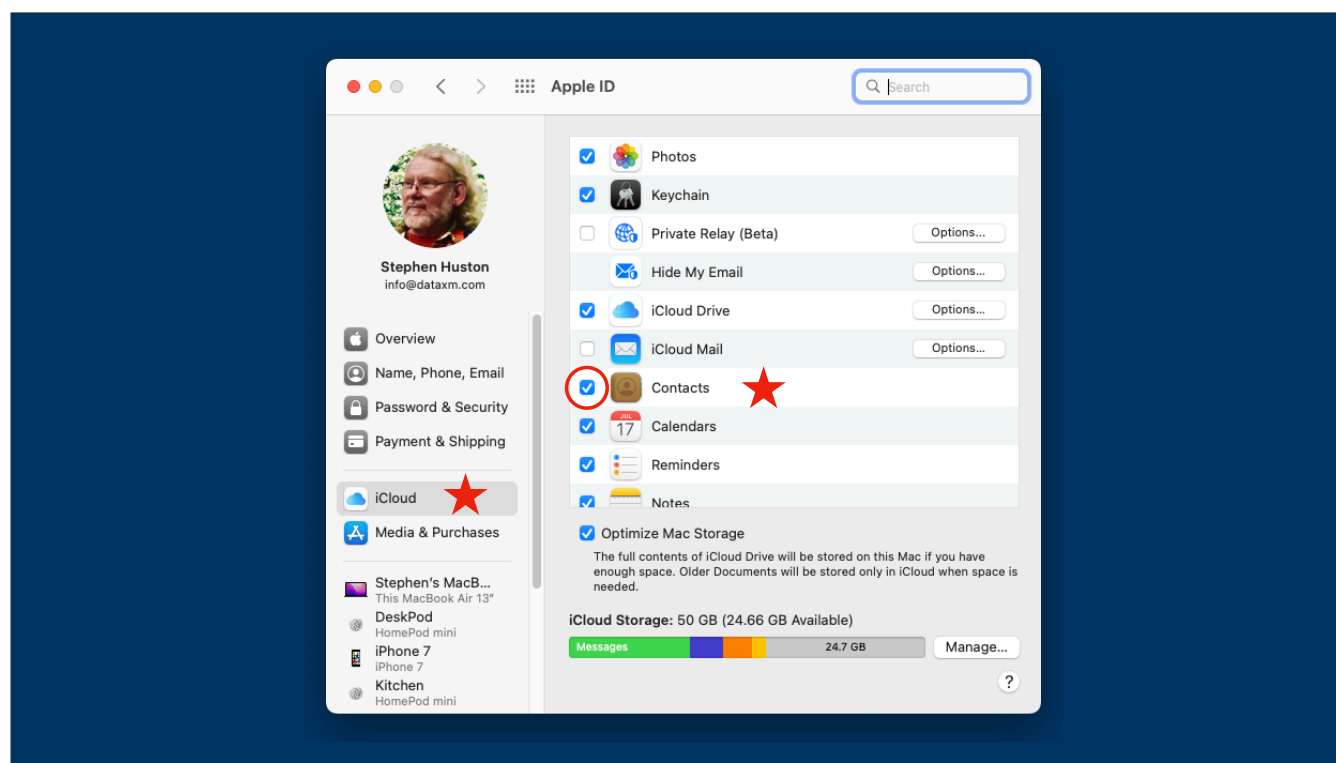


Just as we did on the iPhone, we want to turn on Marked Blocked Sender, then choose the option to send their emails straight to the Trash rather than our inbox. Now the iPad is set up for us to block unwanted emails. If we now tap the Mail back button at the top Left of the right panel, we go back the Threading, and go down one line to the Blocked list.



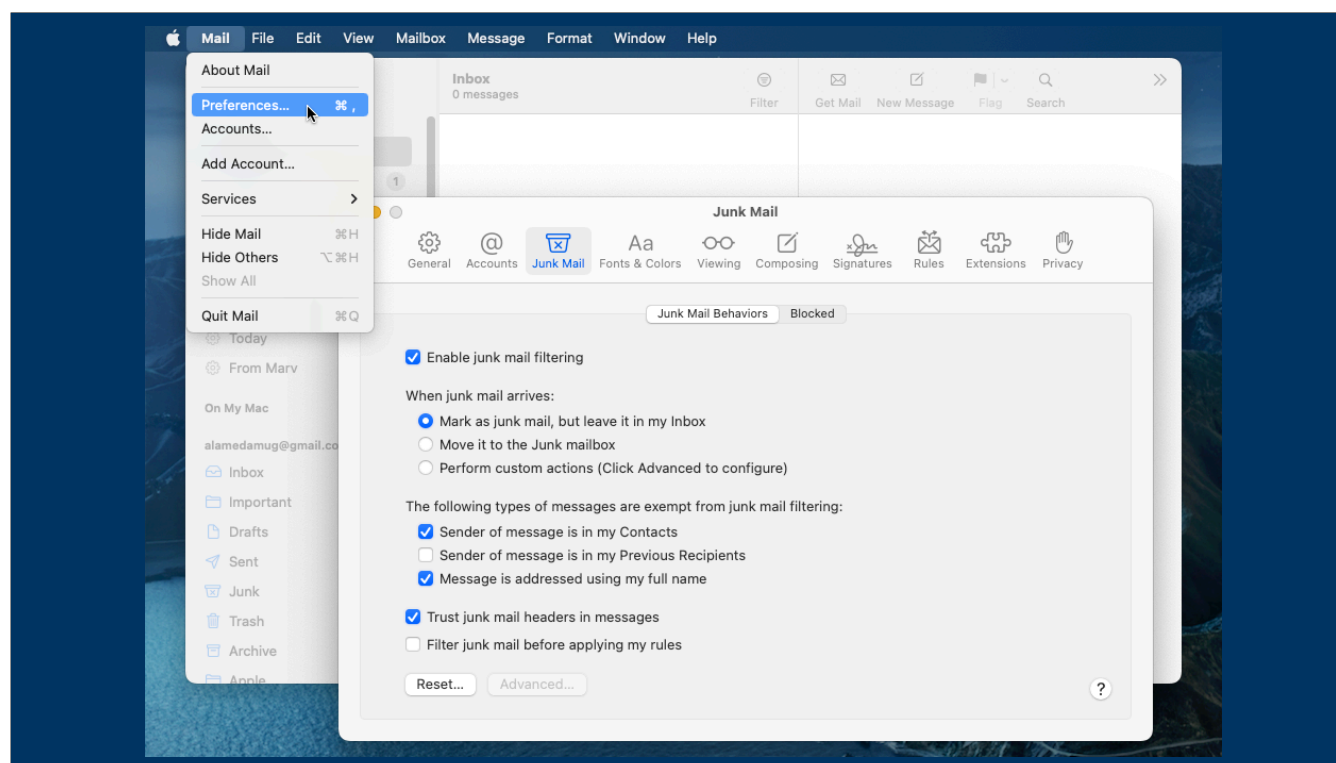
If we now tap the Mail back button at the top Left of the right panel.

Here we have the same options at the Top Right to edit the list of currently blocked contact info in case we want to unblock someone. At the bottom Left we can pick a Contact to add to the Blocked List. Again, this is not the optimal way to add names to the Blocked List. We'll demo doing that right from Mail after we finish with Settings.

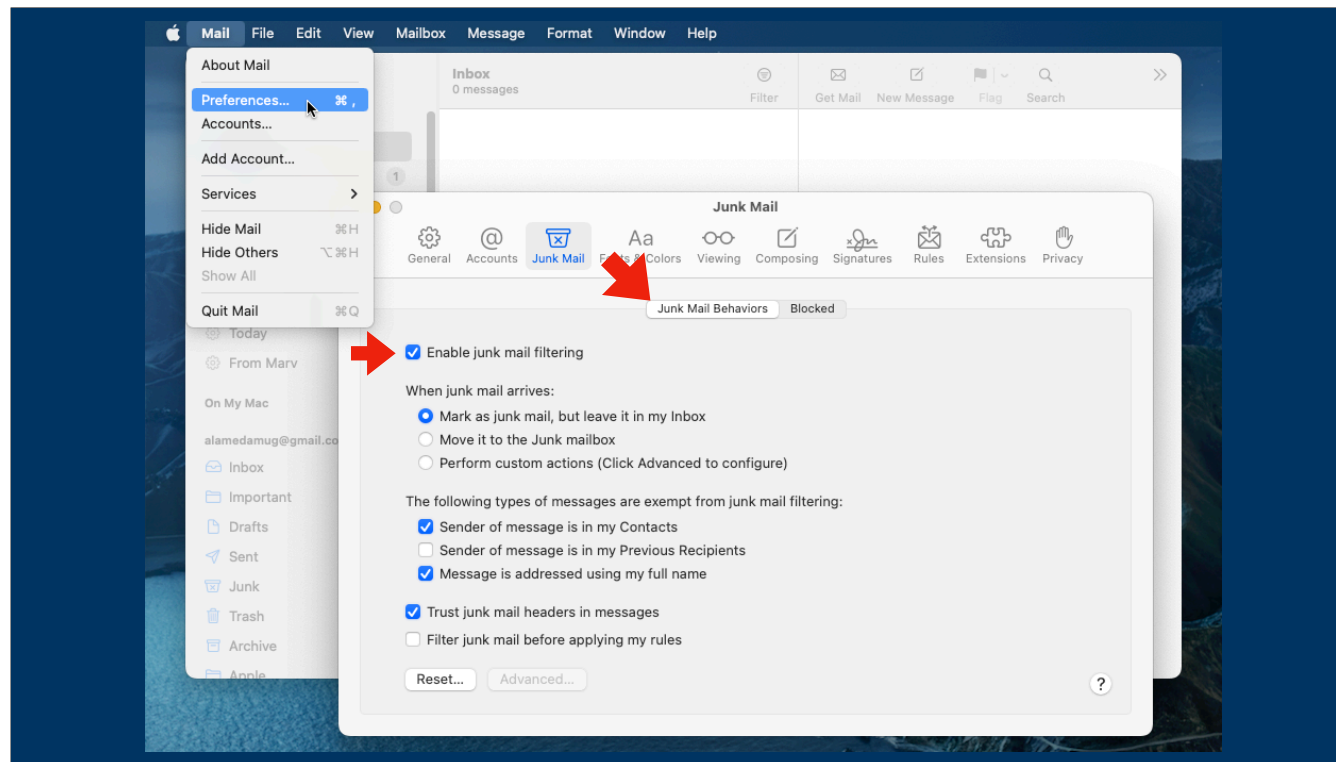


Finally, let's setup the correct Setting on a Mac. First we go into System Preferences and click on the Apple ID settings. That screen is shown above. We want the iCloud setting selected in the left panel. Then be sure that Contacts is turned ON - green - so that Contacts are stored the same and used across all devices. That way, we'll only need to block and email once on a single device for the Setting on each device to work on them all.





After we've checked our iCloud Contacts setting, we leave Settings or System Preferences on the Mac and open the Mail Application itself to make the rest of the Mac Settings for blocking email. With Mail open, we go to the pull-down menu names Mail and select Preferences. There are about 10 tab icons across the top, and we want the one called Junk Mail. Tap on it.

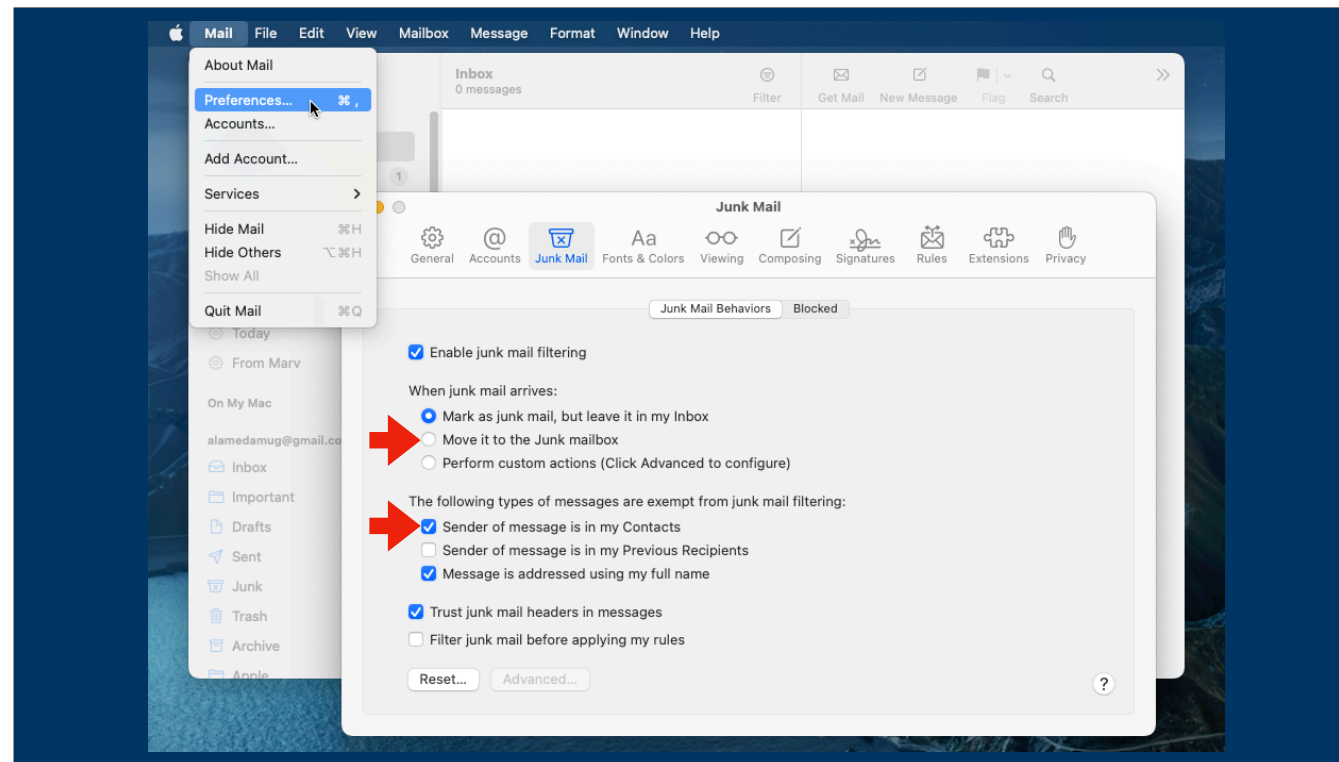


The Junk Mail tab has 2 screens for settings. We'll do the Junk Mail Behaviors first.

NOTE: This is not for Blocking specific Emails, just for how you want Apple Mail to deal with stuff it can spot as JUNK or Spam. We'll get to Blocking emails in just a moment.

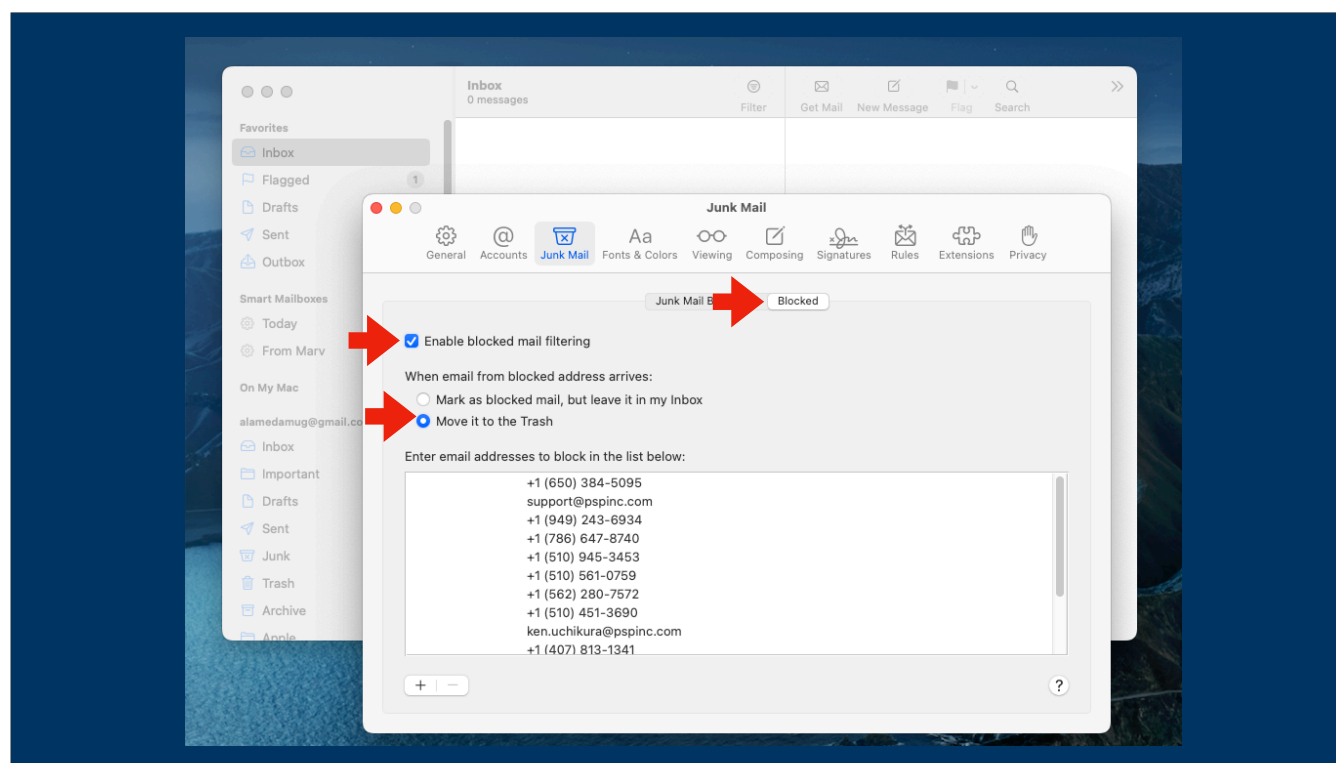
First, Enable Junk Mail Filtering.

After that, we need to carefully consider which actions to take with the Filtering.



We could mark it as junk but leave it in our inbox, or just move it directly to the trash.

We can also set some other options, including exempting mail from Junk filtering if the email's From address is in our regular Contact records.



The other page of the Junk Mail Preferences is just called Blocked. This is for emails we intentionally want to block rather than those that Mail suspects are Junk or Spam. For these, we want to Enable filtering and have it move them to the Trash.

This is not where we block new emails unless they are already actual Contacts, which is all that the Plus Button at the lower left can add.



Now we're ready to actually block an Email within the Mail App, now that you have all your Settings working to enable this. Blocking is simple once the Settings are correct.

On all three devices, blocking is done just by tapping on the **From address** you want to block at the top of an incoming email. On iOS and iPadOS, you'll need to tap on it once to make it turn blue, then tap again to get a popup screen of options. On Mac, there's a drop-down menu on the email address. Block this email address will appear as an option to select on each of these screens. Doing that blocks further mail from address from reaching your inbox. ★