

# Spam - what it is, common red flags, and how to handle it safely

Gridinsoft Help Center

## What it is

Spam is unwanted messages sent in bulk - usually emails, but also texts or comments. Most are ads you never asked for; some try to trick you into clicking links or opening files that lead to phishing or malware. Quick explainer and examples: <https://gridinsoft.com/spam>

## Why it matters

Spam wastes time and can hide real threats. One careless click can leak passwords, install spyware, or put money at risk.

## How it works

- Harvest: spammers collect addresses from leaks, scraped sites, or guess lists.
- Blast: send millions of messages cheaply through botnets or throwaway accounts.
- Bypass: evade filters with lookalike domains, URL shorteners, and attachments.
- Profit: push scams, fake shops, malware installs, or credential theft.

## Red flags

- Unknown sender or a brand that looks slightly off.
- Urgent pressure to act now about packages, bank issues, or prizes.
- Short links you cannot preview or attachments you did not expect.
- From address does not match the display name or the real domain.

## Do it right

- Let filters work: mark spam as spam, do not reply, and do not unsubscribe on obvious scams.
- Never open unexpected attachments or enter logins from email links. Go to the site yourself.
- Turn on MFA and use a password manager so stolen passwords are less useful.
- Keep your email app and devices updated, and review junk folders for false positives.