



EMAIL AUTOMATION · RULES

Taming Junk Mail with Rules

Fastmail's built-in spam filter does a lot, but it can't read your mind. This guide shows how a custom **"Delete"** rule gives you precise control over the junk you never want — and how to build it safely.



Two ways to fight junk

Fastmail already includes **Spam Protection** and **Blocked Senders** (the **Filters** from the Basics guide). They catch a great deal automatically. But an automatic filter has to guess, so it can let some junk through (**false negatives**) and occasionally sideline a message you actually wanted (**false positives**). A custom **rule** closes that gap: for senders you know you never want, you set an exact, no-guessing instruction.

Built-in Spam Protection

Automatic, hands-off.

- Works out of the box; no setup.
- Sends suspected spam to your **Spam** folder.
- Guesses for everyone, so it isn't tuned to you — expect occasional misses and the odd wanted message caught by mistake.

Your custom "Delete" rule

Exact control over senders you choose.

- You decide precisely which senders go.
- No guessing — it only acts on domains you've added.
- Grows with you: one rule can hold hundreds of unwanted domains.



Use both together.

Leave Spam Protection on for the broad, ever-changing junk, and add a custom rule for the specific repeat offenders it keeps missing. They complement each other.



The technique: target the root domain — in quotes

Junk from one source often arrives from many slightly different addresses, but they usually share one **root domain**. So instead of blocking a single address, target the domain. Take the full sender address, strip everything up to and including the , and wrap what's left in **quotation marks**.

1 · COPY THE ADDRESS`someone@iluv.southwest.com`**2 · KEEP THE DOMAIN**`iluv.southwest.com`**3 · WRAP IN QUOTES**`"iluv.southwest.com"`

The quotes are the part most people miss — and skipping them can be disastrous:

✗ Without quotes

Typing `iluv.southwest.com` is read as three separate words: `iluv` or `southwest` or `com`. The rule would match — and delete — **every** message ending in `.com`. That's almost all of your mail.

✓ With quotes

`"iluv.southwest.com"` is treated as one exact phrase. Only mail from that specific domain matches. Safe, precise, and exactly what you intended.



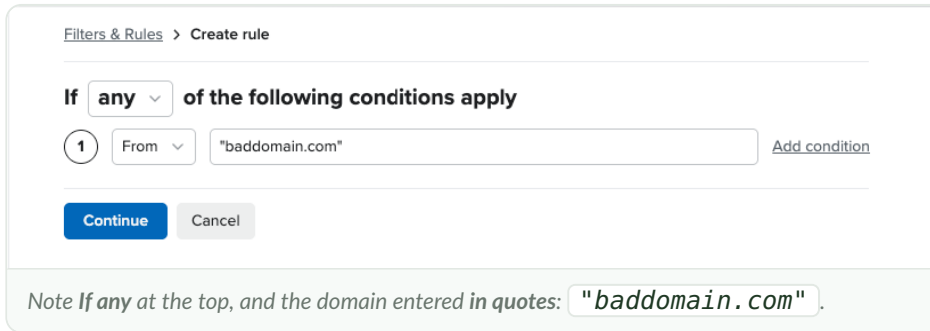
Quick Steps: Add a Sender to Your “Delete” Rule

- 1 Copy the junk sender's full email address, and reduce it to the **root domain** (drop the `@` and everything before it).
- 2 Open **Settings** › **Filters & Rules**. Open your “Delete” rule, or click + **Create rule** and set the top dropdown to **any**.
- 3 Click **Add condition**, choose **From**, and paste the domain in quotes: `"baddomain.com"`.
- 4 For the action, tick **Delete to trash** (Dr. Bob also ticks **Mark read**).
- 5 Name it **Delete** and click **Save / Do it**.

Illustrated Walkthrough

1 Set the condition to “any” and add the quoted domain

One rule can hold a huge list of unwanted domains — the trick is the top dropdown. Set it to **any** so the rule fires if a message matches *any one* of your domains. Then add a **From** condition with the domain in quotes.



The screenshot shows the 'Filters & Rules > Create rule' interface. It features a dropdown menu set to 'any' with the text 'of the following conditions apply'. Below this, a list of conditions is shown, with the first one numbered '1' and set to 'From' with the value '"baddomain.com"'. An 'Add condition' link is visible to the right. At the bottom of the form are 'Continue' and 'Cancel' buttons. A note at the bottom of the interface states: 'Note If any at the top, and the domain entered in quotes: "baddomain.com".'

2 Choose “Delete to trash” and name it “Delete”

For the action, tick **Delete to trash**. Ticking **Mark read** as well keeps deleted junk from inflating your unread counts. Name the rule **Delete** so you always know which one to add new domains to.

Create rule

from:"bademails.com"

☒ Mark read

☐ Pin

☐ Notify me

☐ Archive (remove Inbox label)

☐ Add label Microsoft

☐ Snooze until 8:00 AM

☐ Send a copy to email@example.com

☒ Delete to trash

☐ Send to spam

☐ Continue to apply other rules
Cannot be used if moving or deleting a message.

Apply to...

☒ All matching conversations now

☒ New matching messages on arrival

Name

Optional. Remind yourself of this rule's purpose.

Do it **Cancel**

Mark read + Delete to trash, named Delete, applied to existing and new mail.

! Trash, not Spam.

Sending junk to **Trash** (rather than Spam) keeps your Spam folder meaningful and lets you do one easy safety check before anything is gone for good — see Step 4.

3 Keep adding conditions — one rule, many domains

Each time a new junk sender appears, open the same **Delete** rule, click **Add condition**, and paste the next quoted domain. Over time this becomes a single, tidy rule with dozens or hundreds of lines — all sent straight to Trash.

35 Anywhere "theunspeakpitch.com" x

36 Anywhere "rajaforcongress.com" x

37 Anywhere "techcloudfunding.com" x

38 From @fortscottmunitions.com x

39 From "bengsforsouthdakota.com" Add condition x

Then

☒ Mark read @

☐ Pin

☐ Notify me

☐ Archive (remove Inbox label)

☐ Add label (Gmail)

☐ Snooze until 8:00 AM

☐ Send a copy to email@example.com

☒ Delete to trash

☐ Send to spam

☐ Continue to apply other rules
Cannot be used if moving or deleting a message.

Name

Delete

Optional. Remind yourself of this rule's purpose.

Disable

☐ Skip this rule

Save Preview Cancel Delete rule

*A real Delete rule: many quoted domains under **If any**, all going to Trash.*

4 The safety habit: skim Trash before you empty it

Because everything lands in **Trash** rather than vanishing, you get a safety net. Every so often, open Trash and skim the senders before emptying it. If you ever spot something you actually wanted, you'll know a condition is too broad — open the **Delete** rule and remove or tighten that line.

⚠ Never target a shared domain.

Only quote domains that send *nothing* you want. Never add a root domain like "gmail.com" or "outlook.com" — that would trash mail from everyone using that provider.

➤ New to rules?

Start with **Filters & Rules: The Basics**, and see **Organizing Incoming Mail with Rules** for using the same engine to file the mail you *do* want.



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