

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.

Filters & Rules > Create rule

If **any** of the following conditions apply

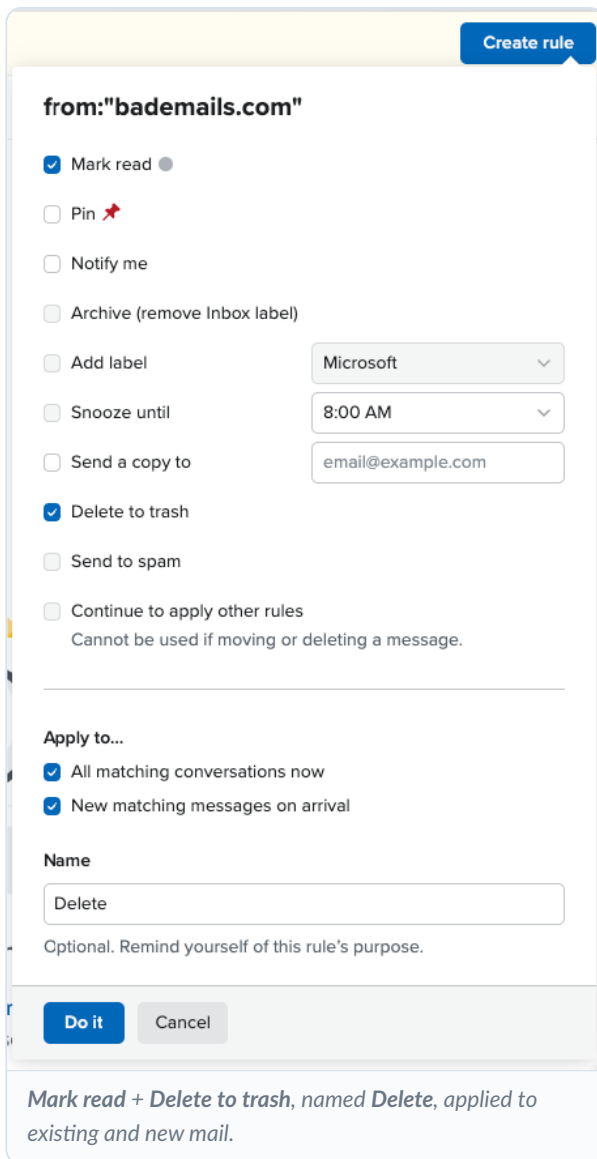
1 From "baddomain.com" [Add condition](#)

Continue Cancel

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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