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**Consumers – Fight Back With FTC's Do Not Call Registry**

**By James H. Dimmitt**

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The Federal Trade Commission has rolled out it's National Do Not Call Registry and the registration site already has over 700,000 registrants. This is great news for consumers who have grown tired of annoying sales calls by pesky telemarketers.

Consumers can register online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov).

You can register up to three personal phone numbers at one time. This is a free service established by the FTC and your "do not call" registration is good for a 5-year period.

Additionally, a toll-free number is also available for those who want to register by phone. The toll-free number is 1-888-382-1222. You must call from the phone number you want to register when using the toll free registration service.

The toll free number is only accessible to those states west of the Mississippi River in the initial week of registration. The program will spread nationwide the following week.

Telemarketers will be required to "clean" their call lists by matching their list against the national "do not call" list every 90 days starting in September 2003.

Companies who call listed people will be subject to fines of up to \$11,000 per violation. Enforcement will begin in October 2003. You will be able to file a "do not call violation" complaint online or by phone.

Over two dozen states already have their own "do-not-call" lists and most of these states plan to incorporate their lists into the national registry. If your state is one of them, you do not need to re-register for the national registry.

**CAUTION:** There have been reports of scam artists and identity thieves calling people to request or confirm personal information for this new registry. The FTC has posted this warning to consumers on their web page:

"The FTC will not allow private companies or other such third parties to "pre-register" consumers for the national Do Not Call registry. Web sites or phone solicitations that claim they can or will register a consumer's name or phone number on a national list - especially those that charge a fee - are a scam. Consumers will be able to register directly with the FTC, or through some state governments, but never private companies."

Consumers should also be aware that some types of telephone solicitation are exempt from the do-not-call protection. Companies from which you have purchased, leased or rented from in the previous 18 months are exempt. Also charities, surveys, and calls on behalf of politicians will be exempt from this service.

The National Do Not Call Registry does not cover business to business calls.

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## **Registry Cleaners: Why do you need one?**

**By Joseph Tierney**

The registry is the place where your computer stores the configuration information about your computer and your installed programs so that your operating system can use them.

Maintaining the registry is an important step in keeping your computer healthy. Registry problems can include slow performance, computer crashing, and the annoying Microsoft Windows error messages.

If any of these describes you as a computer user:

- Has old drivers on their system that have not been removed.
- Installs or uninstalls software very often.
- Have third party programs running such as Spyware and Adware (you can't stop these from being installed)

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- Remove software by deleting them from the Program Files folder.
- Installs or Uninstalls hardware.

Then you absolutely need to be repairing your Microsoft Windows registry regularly! All of the above leave traces in your registry that will only hurt your computer in the long run. If you don't clean your computer to fix your registry than you are going to be in a whole world of trouble.

Make sure that you backup your registry before you try to clean or fix anything. Most registry cleaners have registry backup automatically for you, but be sure to check them out. Remember, don't try to edit anything in the registry yourself unless you are very computer savvy.

Why do you need a registry cleaner? Registry cleaners are important because it protects your PC from harmful processes. Is your computer slowing down for no apparent reason? Are you having errors that are not solved by your anti-virus or anti-spyware program? Your PC might be affected by applications that are running without your knowledge. Registry cleaners are a must! Registry cleaners ensure that your registry is clean.

Some errors are just a quick registry fix, while others could be more problematic.

If you keep your registry clean, free of viruses and spyware your computer will last much longer. Spend the time or money now for a registry cleaner to save you even more time or money later down the road.

If you are short on cash then there is a free registry cleaner available that I use exclusively. The program is called Error Nuker and it is a free ware registry cleaner. Error Nuker works on Windows XP, Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows NT4, and Windows 2000. Microsoft Windows does NOT come with a registry cleaner.

Joseph Tierney is a surfer and 2005 high school graduate. To learn more about Error Nuker and other free registry cleaners, please visit

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