

Create Alias Gmail Addresses

Introduction:

It is helpful to have a different email address from your regular one, so you can see who may have passed on your details to a third party, such as a marketing company. The Gmail system allows you to have different addresses, which will always come into your inbox with the alias name, and you can act on it or delete it, etc.

Set Up the Alias:

Adding a plus sign followed by a string of characters after your email username (e.g., myemail+tag@gmail.com) is a feature supported by many email providers, including Gmail, Outlook.com, and iCloud Mail. This is often called a "plus addressing" or "sub-addressing" feature.

When you use it:

The email is still delivered to your inbox.

- *The email provider ignores everything from the + sign to the @ symbol.* So, an email sent to myemail+shopping@gmail.com will arrive in the same inbox as an email sent to myemail@gmail.com.

It provides a unique identifier.

- The "tag" (the string after the + sign) is still part of the "To:" address in the email's headers. This allows you to use it for various purposes.

Common uses for this feature:

- **Filtering and organizing emails:** You can create filters in your email client that automatically sort, label, or archive emails based on the "plus address" they were sent to. For example, you could sign up for newsletters using myemail+newsletters@gmail.com and have a filter that automatically labels all incoming emails with the "Newsletters" tag.
- **Tracking where your email address is being used:** If you use a different plus address for each service you sign up for (e.g., myemail+amazon@gmail.com, myemail+facebook@gmail.com), you can easily see which service is selling your data or has been compromised if you start receiving spam to that specific address.
- **Creating temporary addresses:** You can use a plus address for a one-time signup or a temporary service, knowing that you can easily filter or block all emails sent to that address later if needed.
- **Signing up for multiple accounts on the same website:** Some websites check for identical email addresses to prevent a user from creating multiple accounts. However, because plus addresses are technically different strings (e.g., myemail+1@gmail.com and myemail+2@gmail.com), they can sometimes bypass this check while still directing all the emails to your primary inbox.

Summary:

Adding a plus sign after your email username is a simple but powerful tool for managing your inbox, improving your privacy, and organising your digital life.

It's a feature worth knowing about and using.

