

COLUMNISTS

# Cellular commandments

Bad phone behavior rude, dangerous



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Our company supplies the marketplace with cell phone parts and accessories such as solar chargers, charging cord organizers and smartphone stands. So it's incumbent on us to help ensure users also conduct themselves appropriately when using a mobile phone in public.

CableOrganizer.com offers these "10 Commandments of Cell Phone Use."

**1. Respect those you're with.** If you make social plans with someone, they are the first priority and deserve your undivided time and attention.

**2. Let voicemail handle non-urgent calls when appropriate.** Voicemail exists for a reason ... it allows you to take note of non-emergency incoming calls without disrupting the environment you are currently in.

**3. Set a good example to**

**the younger generation.** You teach them to say "please" and "thank you." Why stop there? Mind your cell phone Ps and Qs. You'll give them a shot at becoming model, tech-savvy citizens themselves.

**4. Wait to text, and save a life.** When you drive and text, you're not only taking your hands off the wheel, but your eyes off the road as well. No text message is worth the risk of injuring, or killing, yourself or others.

**5. Stash your cell when dining out.** When people spend money on a dinner out, the last thing they want is to become a captive audience to a third-party cell phone conversation.

**6. Remember when "private time" is in order.** It's easy to identify telltale restroom sounds like echoes, running water and flushing. End calls before you walk into the restroom, and don't answer or dial again until you've washed and exited.

**7. Keep arguments under wraps.** Others can't see or

hear the hothead on the other end of the line. All they are aware of is a one-sided screaming match a few feet away.

**8. Mind your manners.** If you wouldn't walk through a public place with a word or comment printed on your t-shirt, don't use it in cell phone conversations within earshot of strangers.

**9. Don't ignore universal quiet zones.** In a theater, house of worship or conference room, heed the mandate to shut off cell phones. Screen light is disrespectful to those around you.

**10. Don't make service personnel wait.** There's a growing frustration among cashiers, restaurant wait staff and others about customers who expect to be served immediately yet can't be bothered to interrupt their phone conversations or texting marathons to order or pay for a purchase. Please help them help you.

Paul Holstein is founder and COO of CableOrganizer.com

