

Phone blockers

These allow parents to restrict the cell-phone use of their teenage drivers and to track their behavior behind the wheel. An app of this type, installed in a teenager's smart phone, usually disables the keypad and blocks incoming calls, e-mail, and text messages once the phone senses that it is moving faster than a specified speed. Some systems can also alert parents if the teenager speeds, or leaves or arrives at a preset location. They usually require a subscription plan. We recently looked at two of these products:

tXtBlocker (\$7/month or \$70/year)

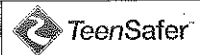
The tXtBlocker is the most effective antitexting product



we've tried. In addition to disabling the phone, it allows parents to set limits on where and when messages can be sent or received and allows the phone's location to be tracked on a website. It also allows calls to 911 and selected contacts. For Android and BlackBerry phones.

TeenSafer (\$3/month or \$25/year)

This product is cheaper but lacks some of tXtBlocker's



features, such as tracking and zone-based blocking. And because TeenSafer requires a Bluetooth connection to automatically activate, it can be circumvented if the user doesn't connect it. For BlackBerry phones.