

Taking Full Advantage of Google My Business

Peter Troast, Founder & CEO Energy Circle Webinar Series December 6, 2017



Give Your Customers Something to Relate to with Case Studies



By Ben Wyman | November 30, 2017

If you're like most business owners you're always looking for simple and effective ways to spruce up your marketing strategy to make your business more competitive. If you aren't one of those people, then this blog isn't for you. For everyone else, hang with me to learn more about one of the simplest, and often overlooked components you can add to your marketing toolbox.

Why Case Studies Matter

For HVAC, home performance, or solar contractors, case studies can be excellent components to add to your website. Case studies have often been overlooked in our industry which is a shame because your business offers services that are perfectly conducive to before-and-after case studies.

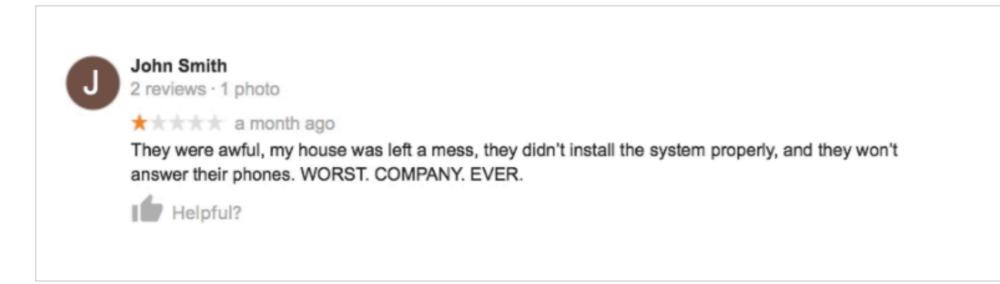
Plus everyone has smartphones now, so contractors always have cameras on hand to take photos throughout the process — from the start to project completion. Slap a few photos on your site, whip up some descriptive text and boom, you've got yourself a case study. What could be easier? Okay, so maybe you should put more thought into it than that but what I just described is the basic procedure for creating case studies.

Review Management Best Practices for Local Businesses



By Amy Irish | November 16, 2017

So it happened. The review that no one wants. You work tirelessly to train your employees to treat each customer's project with care, accuracy and respect, so how is it possible for you to get a review like this?



Whether or not training is an issue here, the review needs to be addressed. If you are a local solar installer, HVAC contractor, or home performance company with few reviews, this negative review will likely make potential customers find a different option. Unfortunately, unless it's Facebook

and you want to turn off all roviows, you can't dalate it. So what can you do?



How To Answer the Yelp Compliance Verification Form



By Dan Paradee | November 15, 2017

Yelp is cracking down on review solicitations. To continue their strong reputation, Yelp needs people to believe that their reviews are organic, and not paid for or faked by the individual companies. So in the past couple of weeks, Yelp has started to issue this warning: "Yelp detects that a reputation management company may be asking for reviews on your behalf."

yelp for Business O	WITER'S Your Business Account Settings Support Inbox (888) 959-9357
	management company may be asking for reviews on your behalf. Soliciting reviews violates violate these policies, you may avoid a penalty by submitting a Compliance Verification
100000 (C	Business visibility ×
+ Add a Location	Offer a Yelp Deal Offer a discount to attract new customers. There's no upfront cost, and you get paid with each sale.
Activity Yele Ade	Get Started Skip

What We'll Discuss

- How We Got to Today—Places, Google+, Google My Biz
 - The Second Most Important Page on the Web?
- **Google My Business Fundamentals**
 - **Taking Advantage of New Features**
 - —Posts
 - —Q&A
 - —Attributes
 - —Chat Messaging



1

2

3

4



HOW WE GOT HERE

(Places —> Google+ —> Google My Business)

Places vs Google+ Local vs Google+ Business



formerly Google Places Critical Link in Pin Search Results Importance for Organic Ranking Most Critical Online Reviews May exist even if you haven't set it up



Social--Posts, Circles

New and Cutting Edge

Will Eventually Merge with Google+ Local Page

Easy to Set Up

Low - No Engagement is OK

Serious search juice



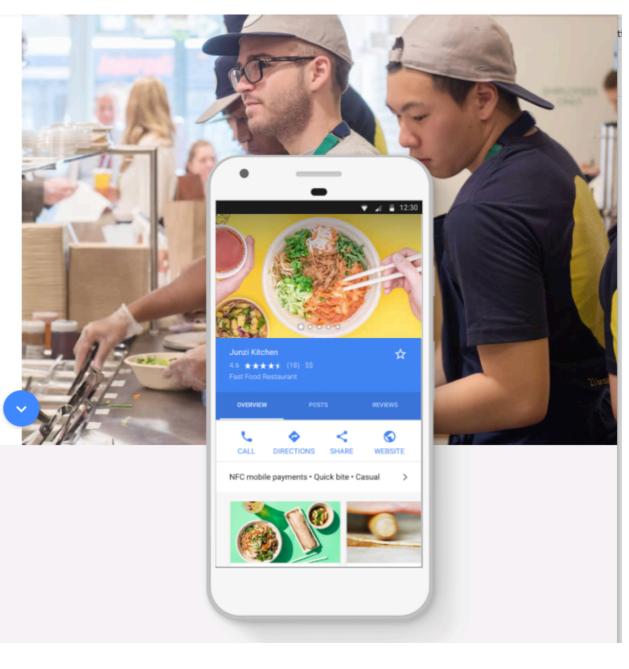


Show you're open for business.

Your listing appears right when people are searching for your business or businesses like yours on Google Search and Maps. Google My Business makes it easy to create and update your listing—so you can stand out, and bring customers in.

START NOW

Call to get started: 1-844-491-9665 *



No New GMB Feature Since 2013 for SMBs 2017





XL Recordings 2015

Nothing

An album by GIL SCOTT-HERON

Existential Threats Loom 2017

Facebook has SMB Mindshare

Developing Countries Skipped the Web

Amazon Winning U.S. Shopping Wars







Google Will Defend Local At All Costs 2017





GMB, Quite the Ride 2017







THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT PAGE ON THE WEB?

(Maybe)

What Story Does This Page Tell?

Water Heaters

Sobieski

Just like any piece of machinery,

water heaters work best when ...

Sobieski offers comprehensive

A Residential Service Agreement

gives you peace of mind ...

Residential Service Agreements

commercial and residential ...

About 160,000 results (0.49 seconds)

Homeowner Services | Sobieski | Delaware, Maryland, PA & NJ

https://www.sobieskiinc.com/homeowner *

Sobieski provides homeowners in the Delaware Valley region with comprehensive solutions for heating, air conditioning, plumbing, water heating & duct cleaning.

Heating & Air Conditioning

Sobieski offers professional heating and air conditioning ...

Contact Us

Contact Sobieski, the leader in commercial fire, alarm and ...

Geothermal

Sobieski offers geothermal installations for homes in ...

More results from sobieskiinc.com »

Sobieski Services, Inc. Reviews - Wilmington, DE 19804

https://www.customerlobby.com/reviews/11249/sobieski-services-inc Rating: 4 - 146 reviews

Consistently Terrific Service. We have used Sobieski Services for Heating, Cooling, & Plumbing work and have been consistently pleased with the professionalism of their technicians and their service. Read More. 5 Stars. Josephine S. Philadelphia, PA. 11/03/2016. 5 ...

Sobieski Services, Inc. | Wilmington, DE 19804 - HomeAdvisor

https://www.homeadvisor.com > ... > Delaware > Wilmington > Plumbers **v**

Welcome to Sobieski Services, Inc. Whether you need emergency services or a whole new plumbing, heating or air conditioning system, we will provide you with a quick response, competitive prices, fully qualified and experienced integrity first technicians! Headquartered in Wilmington, Delaware, we have been serving ...

Sobieski Services - 345 Photos & 27 Reviews - Plumbing - 14 Hadco ...

https://www.yelp.com > Home Services > Plumbing 🔻

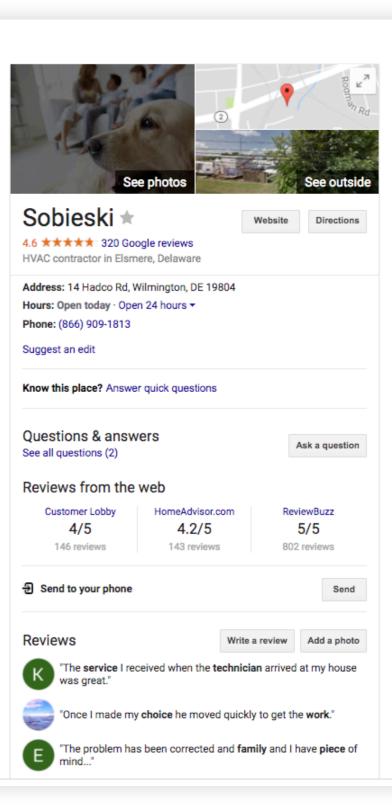
★★★★ Rating: 3.5 - 27 reviews

27 reviews of **Sobieski** Services "The entire process with **Sobieski** was super easy. Called to get an estimate and ... Photo of **Sobieski** Services - Wilmington, DE, United States. Tally Brothers Donovan came out to service the **heating** system .. since our heater is so old we talked about updating it .. His customer service ...

Sobieski - Wilmington, Delaware | Facebook

https://www.facebook.com > Places > Wilmington, Delaware > Contractor **v** Sobieski, Wilmington. 2.5K likes. Welcome to Sobieski Services Inc. Whether you need emergency services or a whole new plumbing, heating or air...

.





Google the new yorker hotel 1 Q Tools **Marine** nline Deal Vood Fabrics O Wyndham New Yorker Hotel * Direc The Hotel https. your stay at our Midtown Experie Manhalta Rooms - Abor The New Yo Wyndham Hotel (New York City) - UPDATED 2017 ... Mon, Jan 23 ny chinw York City Hotels • n 1140 - \$424 (Based on Average Rates for a Star ***** Rat \$101 > Hoom) Want the lowest Note in a constraint of TH Avenue, New York City, NY 10001-1809 (Formerly Wyndia New Yorker Hotel) Taking our son to NY for a coop he was staying at the hotel. Hotel Class: 4 star – The New Yorker A Wyndh... Location: United States > New York > New York \$101 > Number of rooms 1050 Address: 481 STH Avenue, New York City, NY \$101 5 The New Yorker A Wyndham Hotel | New York Hotels, NY 10001 \$94 5 s://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham/new..new..new-yorker-hotel/overview * The New Yorker A Wyndham Hotel New Search. Check In. Check Out. RoomRooms, GuestDuests. More Options From / Night Book Now Cancel Done. Hotel d Wyndham New Yorker Hotel - Wikipedia te hotel is 1 mile from both the Empire https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyndham, Now Yorker, Hotel + The New Yorker A Wyndham Hotel is a historic batel located at 411 Eighth Avenue in New York City. Mere United States. The 43-story Art Deco hotel, opened 1930. Paid parking 🎄 Accessible aundry service 🔹 Business center Wyndham New Yorker Hotel, New York City, NY - Booking.com www.booking.com - - - - New York City Hotels - Helf's Kitchen + * * * * * Rating 7.8/10 - 6,479 votes - Price range: Prices for upcoming dates start at \$93 Wyndham New Yorker Hetel 4-star hotel This property has agreed to be part of our Preferred Property Program, which groups together properties that stand out ... Review summary @ Write a review Add a photo Rooms - 2.1 ★★★ = ± Guesta liked the clean rooms, though some said they were small & dated & maintenance could be improved . Rooms had views Book Wyndham New Yorker, New York from \$95/night - Hotels.com https://www.hotels.com - ... + New York Hotels - New York Hotels - * **** # Rating 3.8 - 5,821 votes - Price range: from \$75 Location 48 **** Looking for New York, NY Hotels? Book the New Yorker Hotel in New York, NY with Hotels.com and Near the city center, shopping, sightseeing, restaurants & bars nearby - Near public transit, the train station & the airport - Easily accessible by car Save 30-50% OFF today' After booking 10 nights you Win 1 ... Wyndham New Yorker (New York, USA) | Expedia Service & facilities - 42 *** Ouests appreciated the friendly staff - Guests spoke highly of housekeeping - Guests enjoyed the fitness center

https://www.expedia.com - _ - New York - New York Hotels • * * * * = Rating 3.9 - 8,122 reviews Hesuits 1 - 10 of 8122 - Book the Wyndham New Yorker in New York & read reviews. Best Price ... Switch main photo to photo of 29/42 Hotel Bar. Switch main

The New Yorker - 191 Photos & 353 Reviews - Hotels - 481 8th Ave ... https://www.yelp.com - Event Planning & Services - Hotels • **** * * * Rating: 2.9 - 353 reviews - Price range: \$\$ 353 reviews of The New Yorker "Location is phenomenal if you're arriving into NVC by train at Penn Station. Less than half a block walk. Room was the standard

Wyndham New Yorker Hotel, New York Hotels from \$126 - KAYAK https://www.kayak.com > Hotels > United States > New York > New York > ****** * Rating: 7.6/10 - 13,925 votes - Price range: \$126+ Find the best deal for the Wyndham New Yorker Hotel in New York (New York) on KAYAR, View 19925 reviews, 50 photos and compare deals for this hotel.

Images for the new yorker hotel



Searches related to the new yorker hotel

wyndham new yorker hotel reviews	wyndham midtown 45 new york, ny
wyndham new yorker hotel bed bugs	the new yorker hotel dorms
new yorker hotel history	new yorker hotel haunted
new yorker hotel miami	wyndham new yorker yelp
Goood	oooooogle >

1 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Next

- Send to your phone Send People also search for View 15+ mote

View Google reviews

Provide feedback



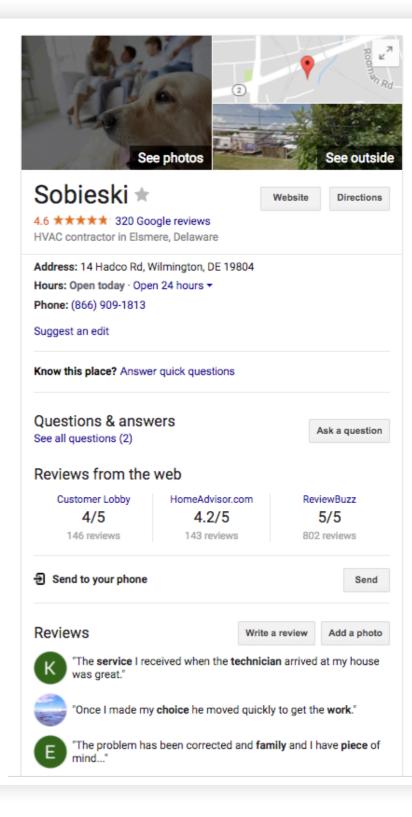
Help improve accuracy

Suggest an edit

What Story Does This Page Tell?

Google Knowledge Panel

(all* info from GMB)







GOOGLE MY BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS

(Get the Data Right!)

1. Photos	Wile	hire Blvd		
2. Reviews	See photos Building Doctors *	Website	See out	
3. Primary Category	 5.0 ★★★★ 10 Google reviews Building restoration service in Los Angeles, California Address: 5042 Wilshire Blvd #268, Los Angeles, CA 90036 			
4. Accurate Data	Hours: Open today · 7AM-10PM • Phone: (323) 646-2534 Edit your business information	,,		
5. Hours	Questions & answers Be the first to ask a question		Ask a questi	
6. Reviews from Web	Reviews from the web 5/5 HomeAdvisor.com · 1 review			
	Send to your phone		Ser	
7. Review Snippets —	Reviews "We are very happy with the service provided." "Dan and his staff handled most of "My home performed marvelously on ninety's."	the paperwork		
	View all Google reviews			

7 K.

See outside

Directions

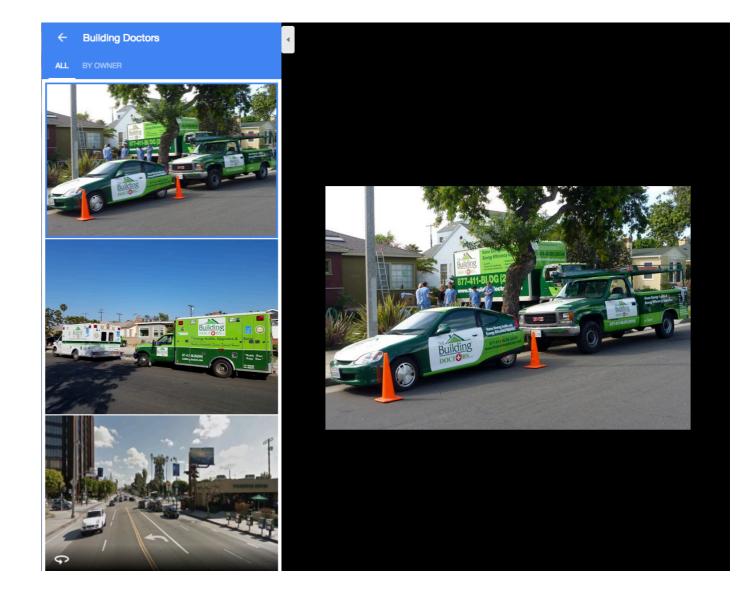
Ask a question

Send

Add a photo

Photos Best Practices

- Good Mix
- **Best One First**
- **Freshness!**
- Use Your Logo
- **People Shots**





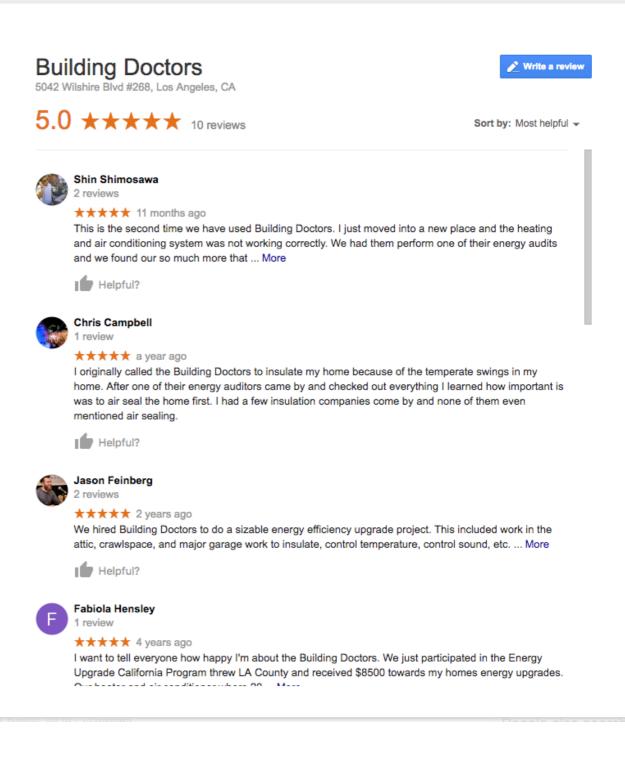
Most Important Reviews on the Web?

Can't Hide from Stars

- 1 Review = Stars
- 10 Reviews = Ranking Factor

Review Snippets in KP

Beware Velocity





Avoiding the Review Filter

- 1. Steady, regular review pace (velocity)
- 2. No duplicate reviews (for Google especially)
 - --not on your site
 - --not on other review sites
- 3. Don't incentivize reviews (or pay for them, ever)



21

Categories—Primary Signal to Google

Primary Category is Visible Change Primary Seasonally Limited to 10 Add All That Apply

Keep an Eye on New Categories

Category		
Categories describe what you does or sells.	r business is, not wha	it if
Primary category		
Heating Contractor		
Additional categories		
HVAC Contractor	×	
Air Conditioning Repair Servic	e ×	
Insulation Contractor	×	
Air Duct Cleaning Service	×	
Air Conditioning Contractor	×	
Furnace Repair Service	×	
Plumber	×	
ADD ANOTHER CATEGORY		
	CANCEL APPI	Y
Please note: Edits may be review take up to 3 days to be publishe		



GMB Category List

New Categories as of 2/17

General Contractor Solar Energy Company Solar Energy Contractor Solar Hot Water System Supplier Air Conditioning System Supplier Air Conditioning Store Furnace Store Heating Equipment Supplier Log Home Builder Roofing Contractor Window Supplier

New Categories as of 12/17

Door Supplier Dry Wall Contractor Dry Wall Supply Store Furnace Parts Supplier Heating Oil Supplier Mechanical Contractor Radiator Repair Service Stucco Contractor Sunroom Contractor Wood Floor Installation Service



23

Data Accuracy—Your Online Fingerprint

Name + Address + Phone Number



Address: 5042 Wilshire Blvd #268, Los Angeles, CA 90036 Hours: Open today · 7AM–10PM ▼ Phone: (323) 646-2534



Hours of Operation

Beware "Closed Now"

If 24 Hour Service, Set for Open 24 Hours

Consider Longer Than Just Open Office

Use Special Hours When Necessary Address: Woodinville, WA Hours: <u>Closed now</u> < Phone: (206) 948-0087

Edit your business information

G	Sunday	Closed
	Monday	8:00 am-7:00 pm
	Tuesday	8:00 am-7:00 pm
	Wednesday	8:00 am-7:00 pm
	Thursday	8:00 am-7:00 pm
	Friday	8:00 am-7:00 pm
	Saturday	8:00 am-4:00 pm

11/10/17	8:00 am-7:00 pm
11/11/17	8:00 am-4:00 pm
11/23/17	Closed
11/24/17	Closed



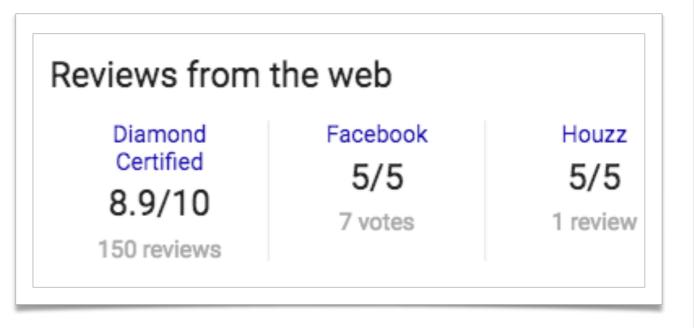
Reviews from the Web

Monitor What is Appearing

Prioritize Those Review Sites

Keep an Eye on Changing Mix

Facebook is Most Universal Across Business Types





Knowledge Graph Priorities by Sector

HVAC

Facebook Home Advisor Yellow Pages

Home Performance

Facebook Home Advisor

Insulation

Home Advisor Facebook Yellow Pages

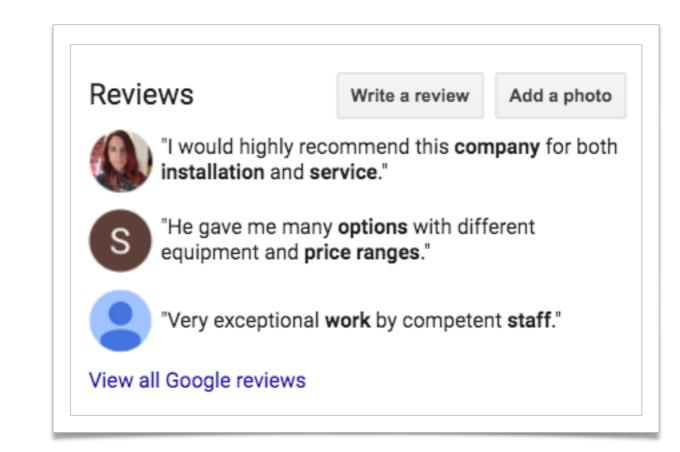
Solar Facebook EnergySage Solar Reviews Home Advisor



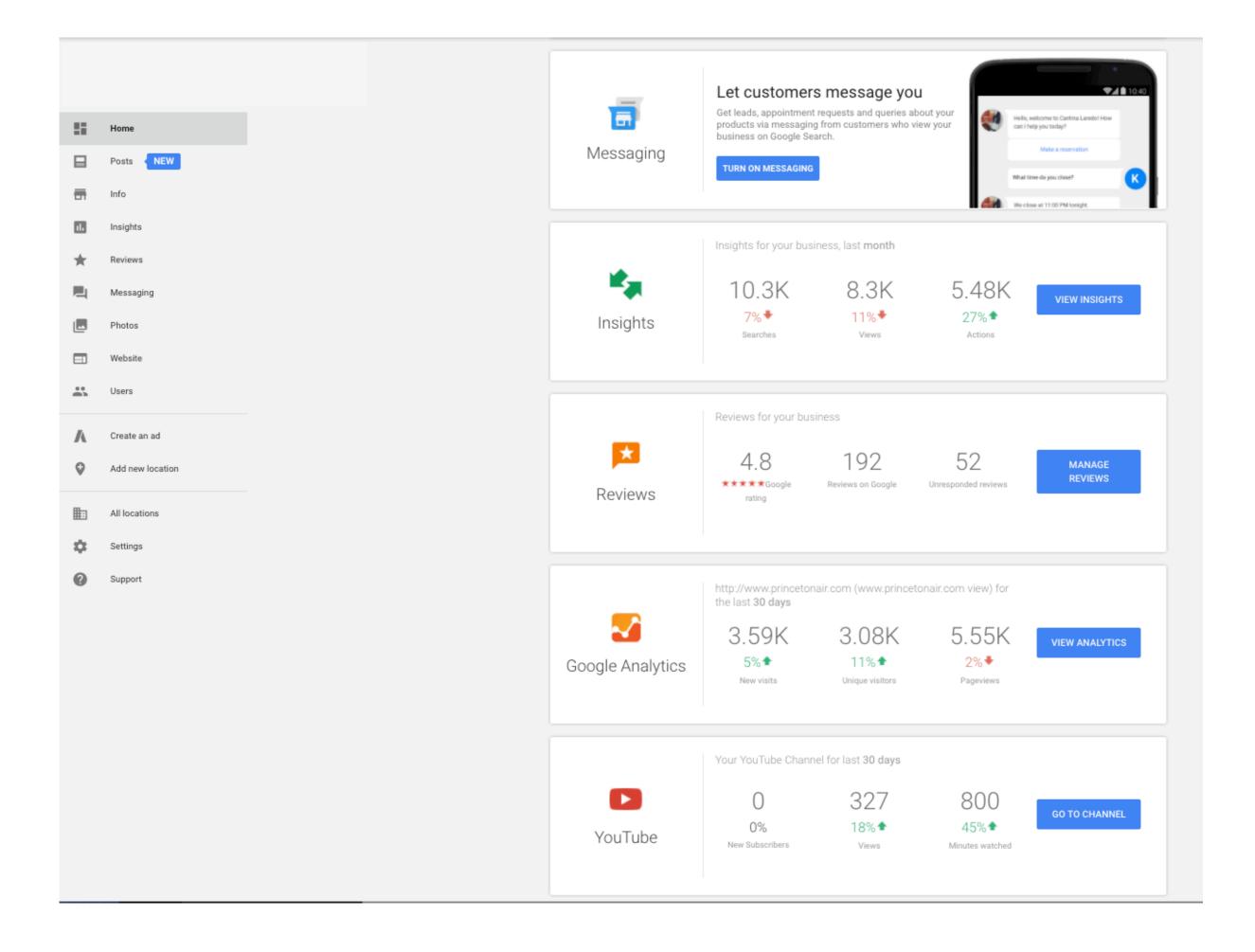
Review Snippets

No Control Over What Appears

Dilute Negatives with More Positive Reviews









TAKING ADVANTAGE OF NEW FEATURES



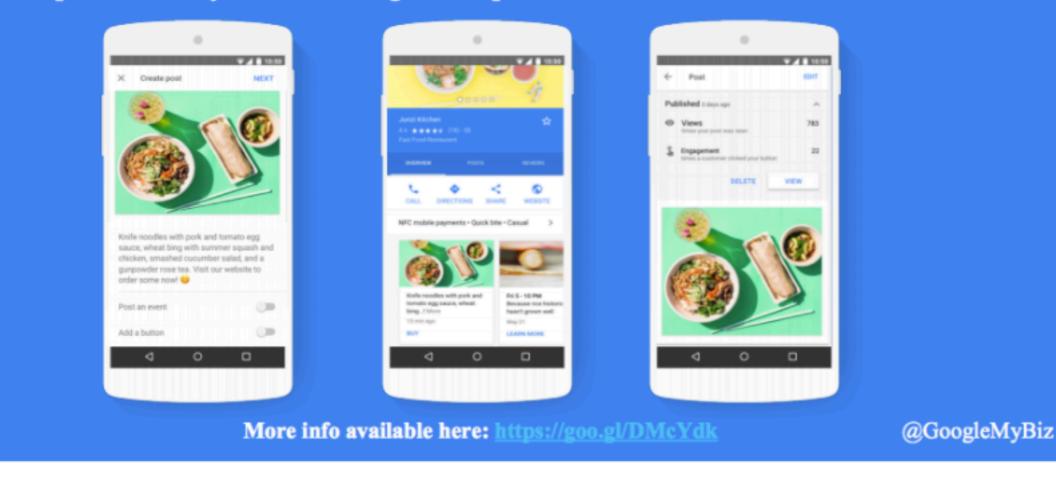
GOOGLE POSTS

How to Use Posts

Engagement Features

Posts

Share your latest news, events, offers, and more directly on Google Search. Hotels are not eligible for posts and only owners/managers can post.





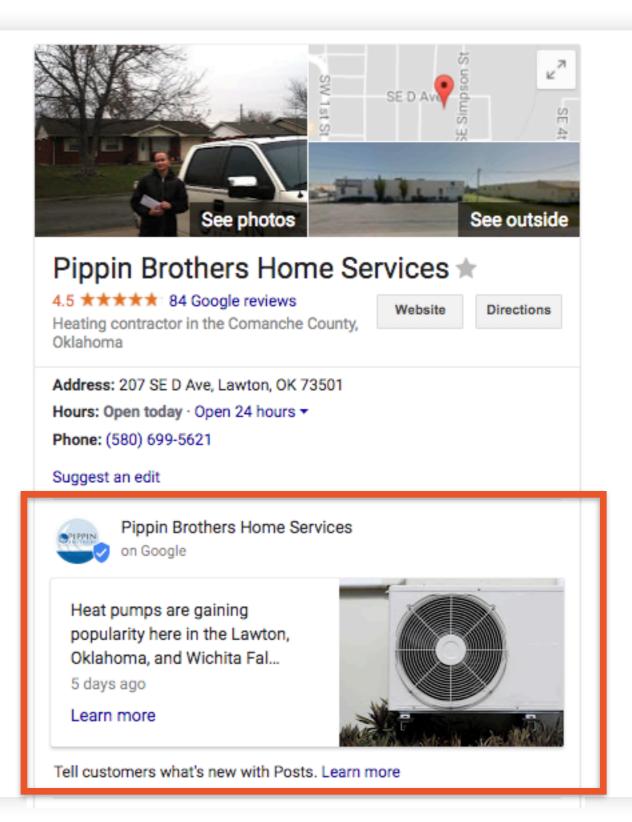
G

Google Posts

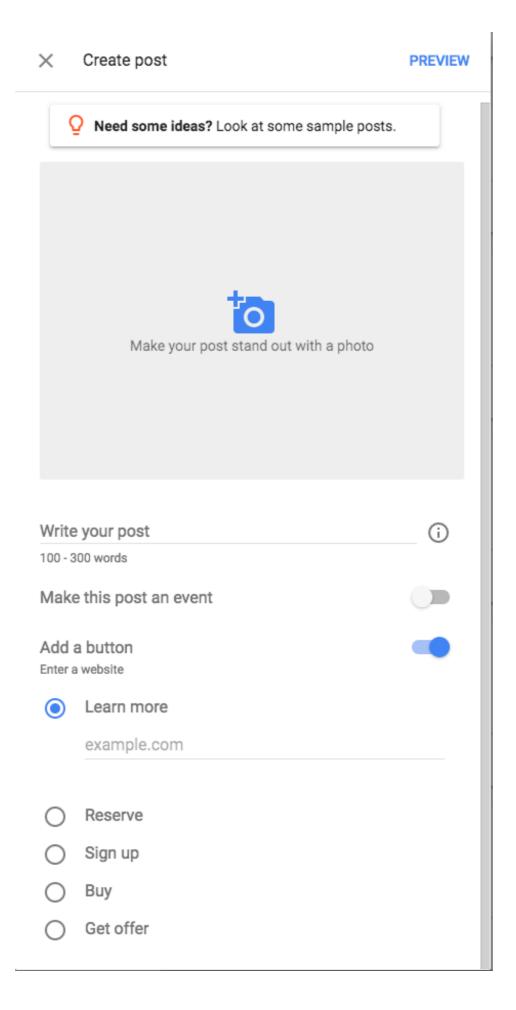
Exposure for Blog Posts, Specials, Awards, News, Offers

Some Evidence of Ranking Boost for Overall Website

Expire in 7 Days







Latest Posts Pippin Brothers Home Services < : Nov 7, 2017

Heat pumps are gaining popularity here in the Lawton, Oklahoma, and Wichita Falls, Texas, areas, and for good reason. A heat pump system can both heat and cool your home efficiently, giving you and your family dependable comfort yearround. Because every home has unique heating and cooling needs, it's important to take the time to select the right heat pump for your home. Weighing your options and consulting an expert as you make the switch to a heat pump system

Pippin Brothers Home Services

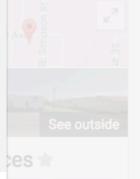
5 days ago

Learn more



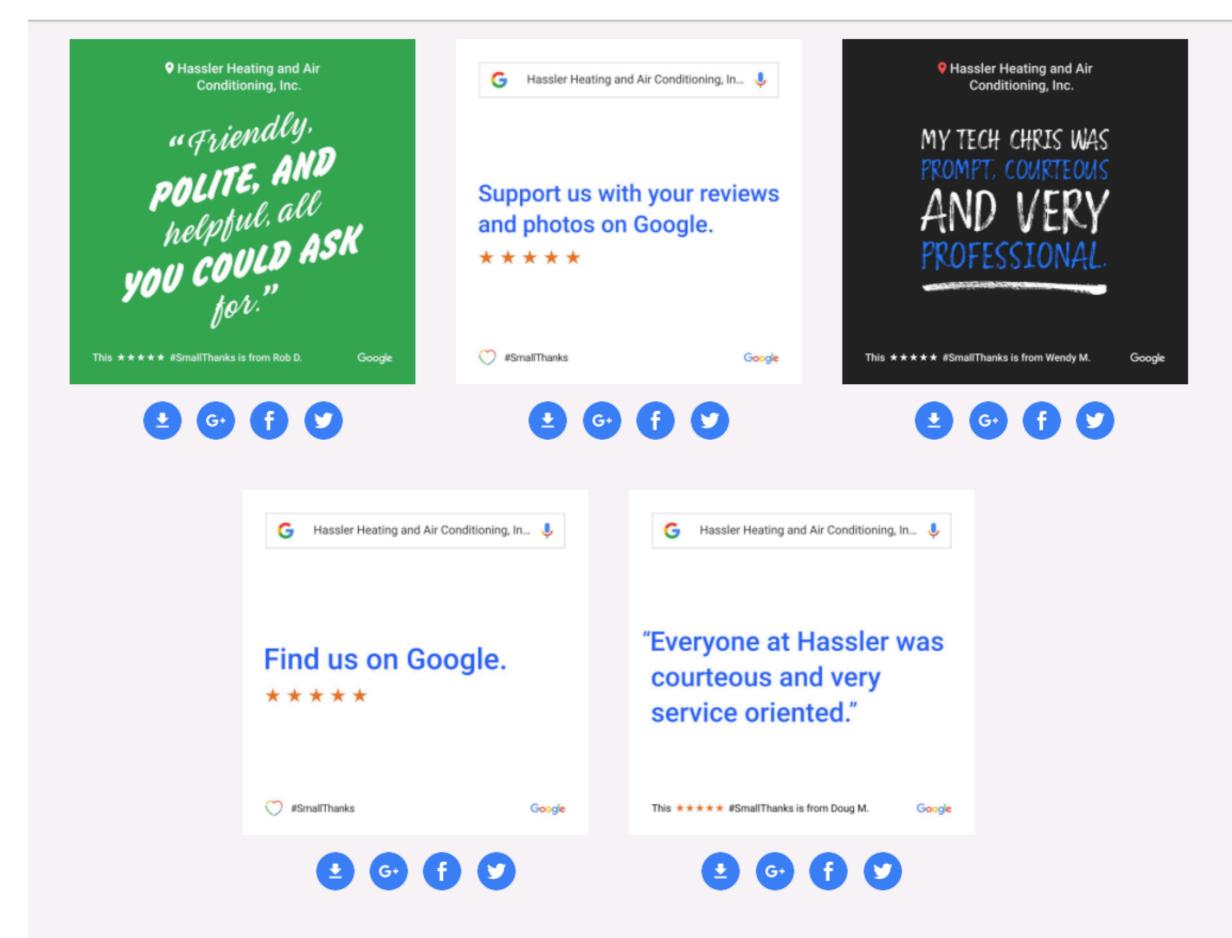
Summer slips away and the cool air of fall moves in. Flip flops and shorts are

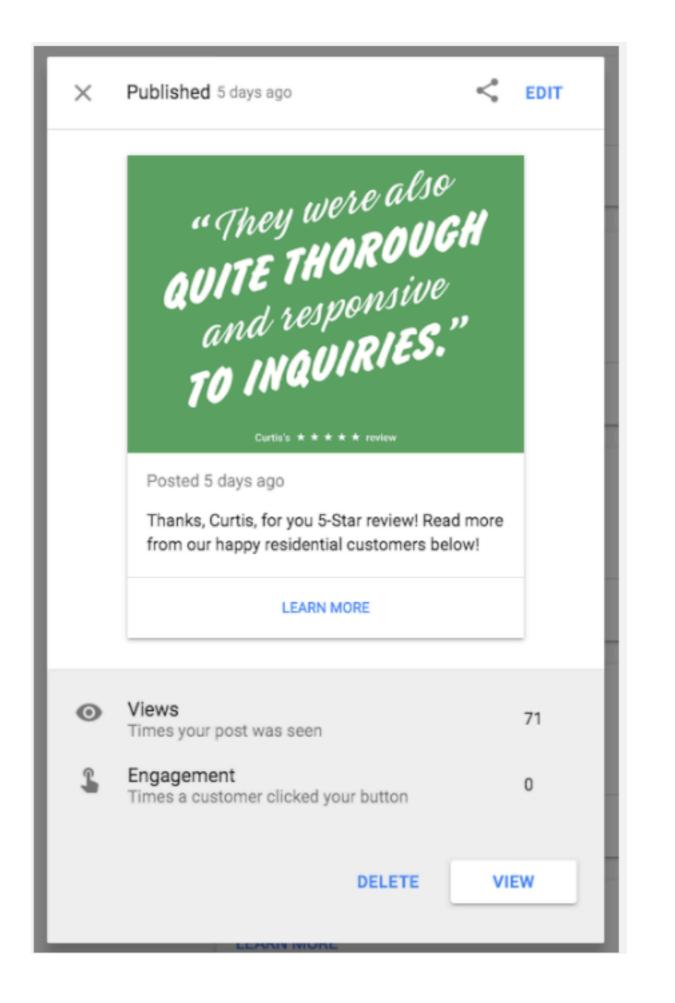
will ensure your home stays cozy and energy efficient all year long.

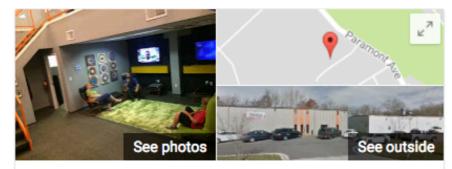


< :

🗘 Small Thanks with Google







Russell's Heating and Cooling \star

4.7 ★★★★★ 182 Google reviews Heating contractor in Chesapeake, Virginia

Address: 916 Business Park Dr, Chesapeake, VA 23320 Hours: Open today · 8AM−8PM ▼ Phone: (757) 424-1000

Suggest an edit







Directions

Thanks for the 5-Star review, Sherry! Click below to see more testimonials from our ha... 2 hours ago Whatever your heating or cooling needs, it's important t find the best HVAC contrac... 6 days ago

Learn more

Learn more

Tell customers what's new with Posts. Learn more

 Know this place? Answer quick questions

 Questions & answers

 Be the first to ask a question

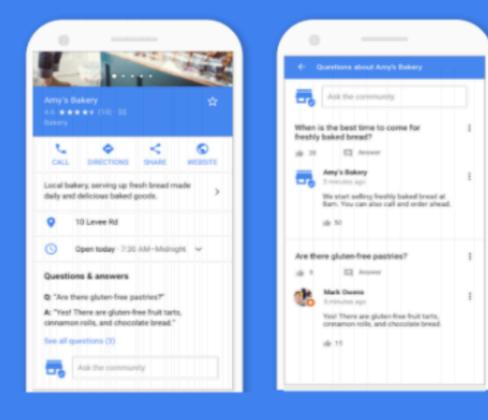
 Reviews from the web

 99%
 To Your Success · 111 reviews



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Engagement Features Questions & Answers

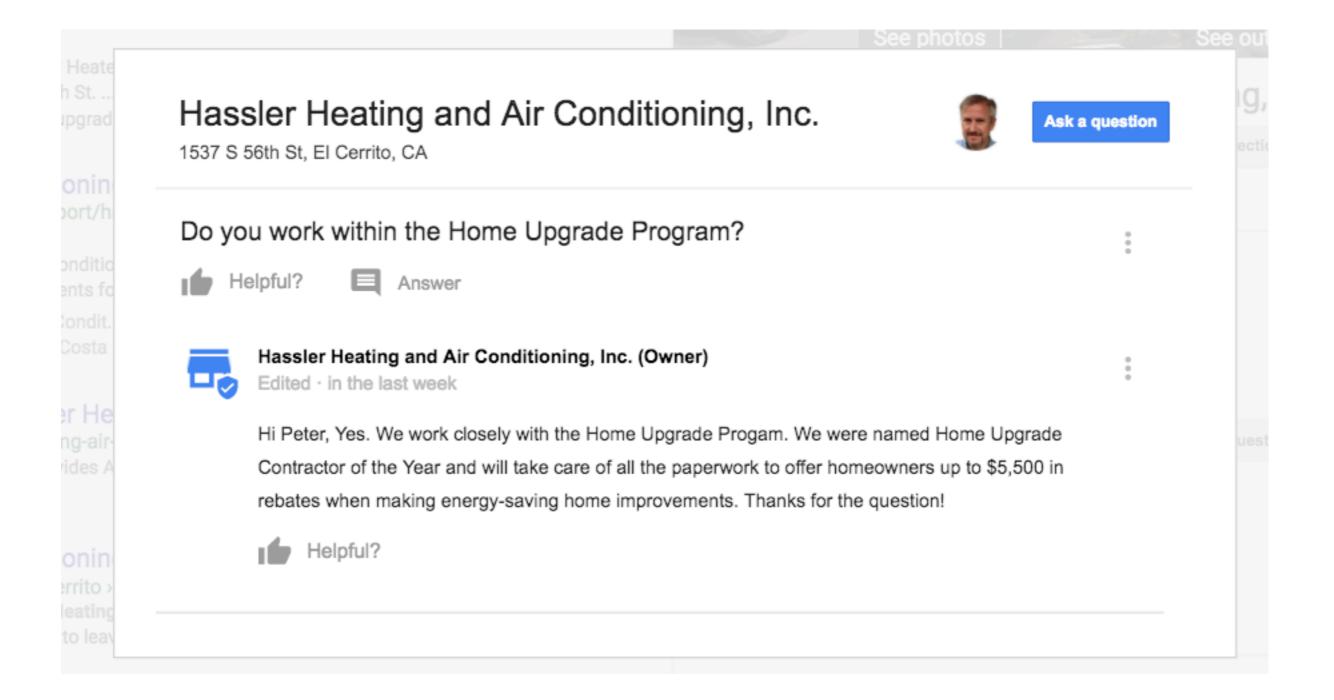


Provide answers to the frequently asked questions your customers have, before they even arrive. You can add, upvote and report questions and answers that violate our policies.

<u>Note:</u> Currently, questions and answers can only be contributed through the listing on Maps or mobile Search.

More info available here: https://goo.gl/Pid5H1

@GoogleMyBiz



Sobieski



Shilda Anderson What is your service fee to come to my home?

Helpful?



Jordan Hellstern a month ago

Mac's right Shilda, but it also depends on what kind of service you need. our furnace no break down Guarantee is \$59 right now. :

Post

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÷





Mac Gardner

Local Guide · 66 reviews · 232 photos

a month ago

Depends if you have a plan with them or not amd whether they complete the work. Around \$50





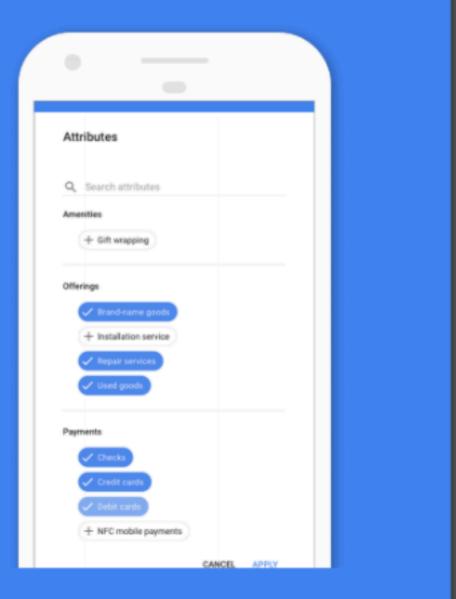
ATTRIBUTES

Engagement Features Attributes

Want another way to give potential customer more info about your business? Add attributes.

The available attributes vary depending on your business category. For example, you might see attributes for payment types accepted, accessibility options, or whether the business is LGBTQ-friendly.

Choose the attributes that apply to your business to help it stand out.





More info available here: https://goo.gl/LWC96u

@GoogleMyBiz

Attributes (Offerings)

Not Universally Available Only Two Attributes So Far for Our Sector

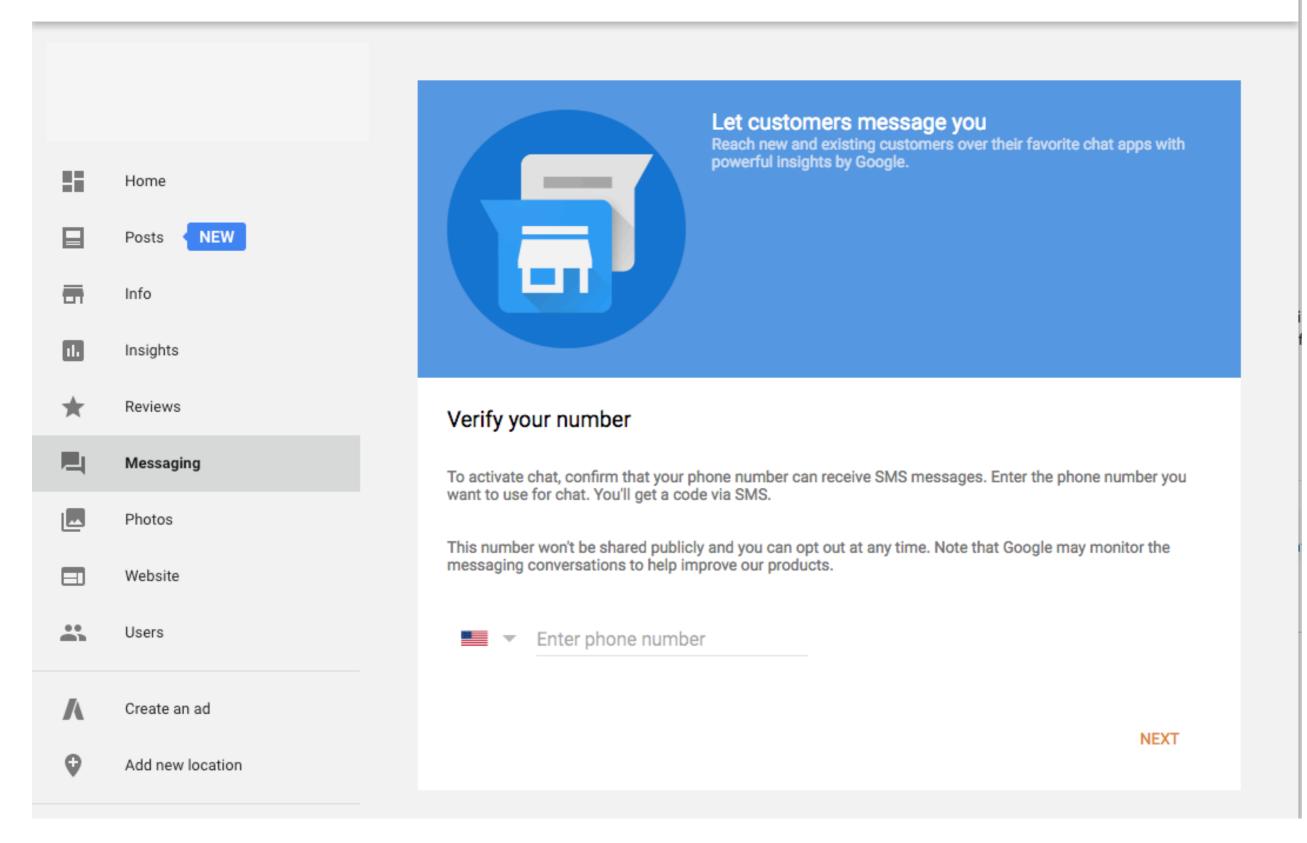
	Appointment URL Add URL	
	Offerings Installation service Repair services	
0	Add photos	





CHAT MESSAGING



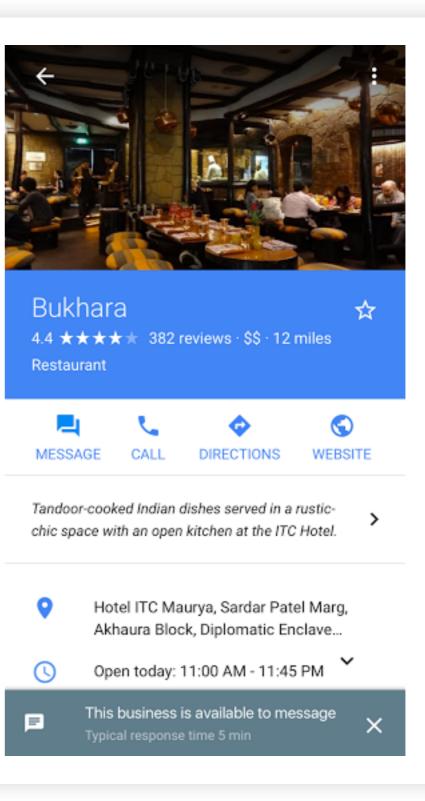


If You Decide to Use Chat

Goes to One Mobile Number

Response Times are Measured and Reported

Can Turn on and Off (but it's Manual)







THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

peter@energycircle.com