# HOW TO THRIVE IN A WORLD OF **ONLINE REVIEWS**





GoodMarketingGroup.com

## **OVERVIEW**

- DID YOU KNOW...
- Why do we even care?
- Dos & Don'ts when responding to good & bad reviews
- Tips on how to build visibility & encourage positive reviews
- How to use reviews in your online & offline marketing







GoodMarketingGroup.com



## 81% of shoppers conduct online research before buying

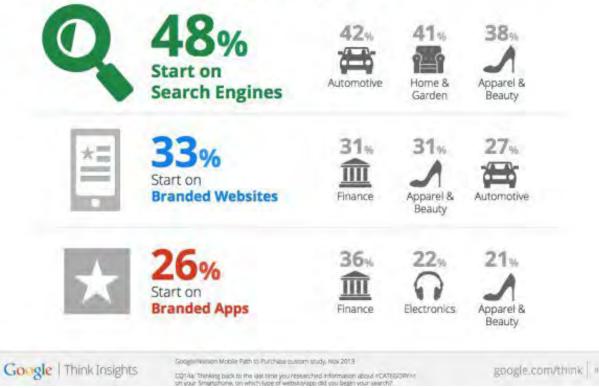
 In 2014, searches made on mobile devices surpassed desktop searches – and continues to grow!

SOURCE: http://searchengineland.com; Myles Anderson on July 7, 2014

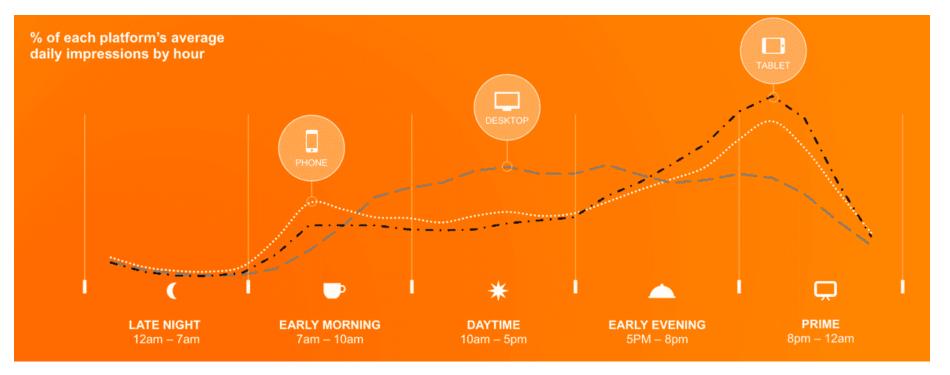




## Search is the most common starting point for mobile research







SOURCE: http://smartinsights.com; Danyl Bosomworth

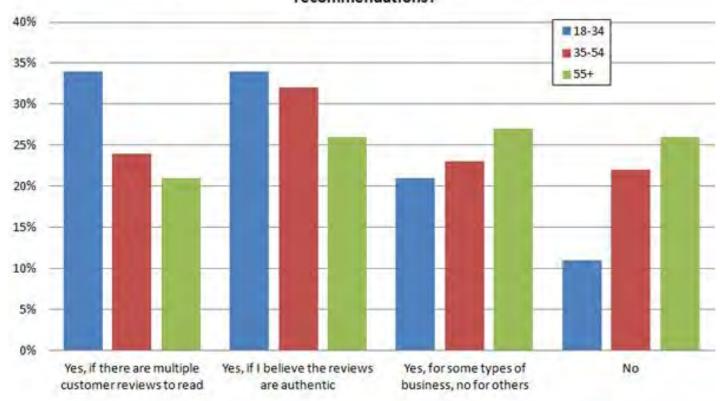


## 88% of searchers trust online reviews as much as personal recommendations.

- 39% read online reviews regularly
- 85% say they read up to 10 reviews
- 10% say they don't take any notice to reviews

SOURCE: http://searchengineland.com; Myles Anderson on July 7, 2014





### Do you trust online customer reviews as much as personal recommendations?



### EWQA 2021

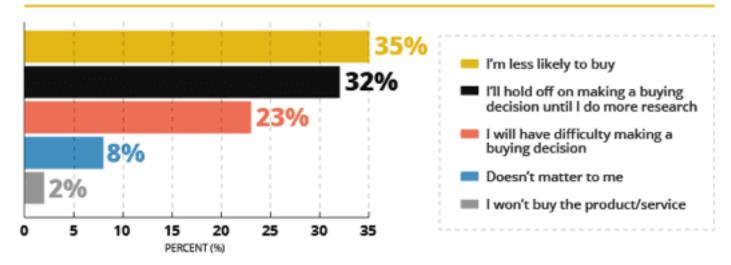
### 72% say positive reviews help them trust a business more.

- 50% say this trust only applies if there are multiple reviews to read.
- 50% say this trust is dependent on the reviews being authentic.

SOURCE: http://searchengineland.com; Myles Anderson on July 7, 2014



### HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN THERE ARE NO CUSTOMER REVIEWS AVAILABLE?





### Emotion

Definition:



e-mo-tion - *noun* a natural instinctive state of mind deriving from one's circumstances, mood, or relationships with others

 instinctive or intuitive feeling as distinguished from reasoning or knowledge.

"responses have to be based on historical insight, not simply on emotion"



### **Expectations**

Definition:



ex-pec-ta-tion - *noun* a belief that someone will or should achieve something; a strong belief that something will happen or be the case in the future.

"Reality had not lived up to expectations."



### Perceptions

Definition:

### Perception IS Reality

per-cep-tion - *noun* a way of regarding, understanding, or interpreting something; a mental impression.

"Our perception of our own company, products and services."



### Communication

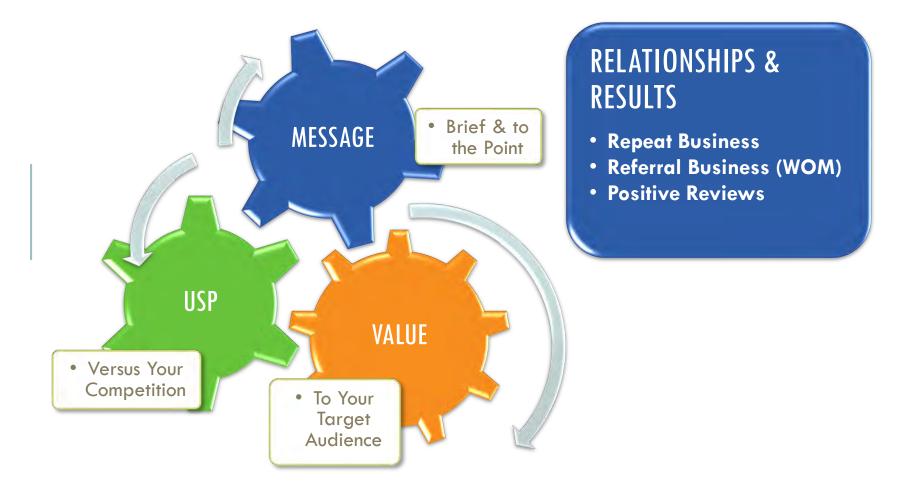
Definition:



com·mu·ni·ca·tion - *noun* The imparting or exchanging of information or news.

"direct communication between the two countries will produce greater understanding"







### Top 5 Don'ts:

### 1. React

- Take a minute or a day to remove emotion
- Imagine face-to-face scenario in your store with other customers
- Ask someone removed but trusted to proof/review reply BEFORE posting





### Top 5 Do's:

### 1. Apologize

- An apology can go a long way
- If can't apologize?
  - acknowledge the complaint
  - appreciate the input
- Let them know you're taking action or investigating





### Top 5 Don'ts:

- 2. Worry or Obsess
  - Encourage more positive reviews
  - Make easy and convenient with links:
    - Email signature
    - Website





### Top 5 Do's:

- 2. Use as opportunity
  - Communicate why operations, timeline, costs, policy
  - Highlight company's strengths
  - Qualities of GOOD customers
  - Insight info patterns or red flags

"Why am I getting these negative reviews"

- Broken system
- Concerning employee
- Faulty equipment





"This company has cancelled on me again on the same day as appointment. They've scheduled time with me a year and three months ago and today and they called the day of the appointment saying their tech was sick, probably because the tech got drunk last night because it was super bowl Sunday. This company has also quoted me a price when we got the initial water equipment installed and now on top of cancelling the appointment again they are charging me \$75 more after GIVING ME A WRITTEN QUOTE! This company is joke, when it comes to keeping their appointments. This comment probably won't even make it to their FB page because they only put the positive comments on!!





Jason, as a small, local company, we do care about our customers and do everything we can to keep our scheduled appointments. We don't use subcontractors, therefore, every one of our installers is an employee. Unfortunately, this means we don't have an installer on stand-by just in case a technician is out sick. However, when this does happen, we try to reschedule as quickly and conveniently as possible for our customers. We apologize you and your wife were inconvenienced and would like to reschedule with our owner after hours to make the situation right.

The benefit of being a small company is that we can keep our prices low. Given that your original written quote was over a year old, we were able to revise the quote to meet you in the middle because we don't have control of the increase made by the manufacturer on the equipment.





### Karen Rapone

10 months ago

#### Response from the owner 9 months ago

Karen, we don't have you in our system. Please contact us during business hours to understand how we could have earned a 5 star review from you. Our goal is to provide quality products and excellent customer service to our customers.



November 2016: "We brought our wood stove in for a new gasket and they f#&ked it up, we demanded they fix it, took two weeks to get it back and it was still messed up, they damaged the handle. Now that we are using it the same gasket fell off! They did not use any sealant how about that. We spent a lot of money there and thus is how you get treated. I highly recommend people stay away. If they cared about their customers they would do better job. What are you trying to kill us. I hope you can sleep at nite knowing that your employees are not properly trained. You should be ashamed of yourselves putting out shoddy work, I spent good money for this now the gaskets completely off. Thanks a lot I WANT MY MONEY BACK so I can have a competent person do the job right. This is not over yet. Bryan & Donna

## NEW OWNERSHIP SCENERIO



September 2017: Bryan & Donna, "CompanyX" is the new owners of the fireplace shop in Hatfield — previously OLD Company. We noticed your post and wanted to invite you to contact us to service your wood stove if your issues with the product were not resolved by the previous owner. "CompanyX" takes pride in our staff of experienced service technicians, installers and sales people. Customer service is one of our priorities! We hope you will try us as your resource for servicing your stove. Stay warm this winter.

## NEW OWNERSHIP SCENERIO



### Top 5 Don'ts:

- 3. Ignore reviews bad or good
  - Bad...
    - Except after ONE year from post
    - Except emotionally charged posts, <u>Apart from</u>:

### "Feel free to contact me personally during business hours to discuss further."

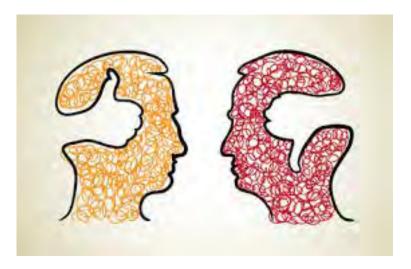
- Good...
  - Remember "Thank You" goes a long way!
  - Customize/Personalize so it seems genuine





### Top 5 Do's:

- 3. Respond to all reviewers
  - Good and bad reviews
  - Trust that other readers will read between lines
  - Other readers will read in future and judge based on response





### Top 5 Don'ts:

- 4. Duplicate replies bad or good Except when multiple negative posts
  - ALWAYS Personalize
  - ALWAYS Customize





### Top 5 Do's:

- 4. Use proper spelling, grammar & punctuation
  - Credibility
  - Understanding

## Let's eat grandpa. Let's eat, grandpa.



### Top 5 Don'ts:

- 5. Pay for reviews
  - Instead... "Thank you" goes a long way
  - Sales staff encourage positive feedback





### Top 5 Don'ts:

### FTC Rules of Endorsement

- The Guides, at their core, reflect the basic truth-inadvertising principle that endorsements must be honest and not misleading. An endorsement must reflect the honest opinion of the endorser and can't be used to make a claim that the product's marketer couldn't legally make.
- If your customer writes about how much they like something they bought on their own and is not being rewarded, you don't have to worry.
- Therefore, the Guides say if there's a connection between an endorser and the marketer that consumers would not expect and it would affect how consumers evaluate the endorsement, that connection should be disclosed.

### Federal Trade Commission



Protecting America's Consumers

SOURCE: <u>https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/ftcs-revised-endorsement-guides-what-people-are-asking</u>



### Top 5 Do's:

- Monitor other sites & monitor for a reply to your reply
  - It's ok to repeat your reply if posted on other review sites
  - The only acceptable reply to a reply:

"Feel free to contact me personally during business hours to discuss further."





## **COMMON REVIEW SITES**

### 9 BEST REVIEW SITES AND DIRECTORIES FOR HOME SERVICE CONTRACTORS

- Google My Business
- Angi
- Yelp
- Yahoo! Local Listings
- BBB
- Facebook Ratings & Reviews
- Houzz
- Home Advisor Pro
- Porch

SOURCE: Brian Horwitz Last updated Aug. 30, 2021

https://onlinevisibilitypros.com/internet-marketing-for-contractors/review-sites-anddirectories/



## **COMMON REVIEW SITES**

### **FREE Resources:**

- Google Alerts
- Social Mention
- TweetDeck
- HootSuite
- Boardreader
- Topsy
- FreeReviewMonitoring.com





## **COMMON REVIEW SITES**

1) Go to Google.com/alerts.

- 2) Add your business name to the Search Query field.
- 3) Parse for result type, frequency and quantity.
- 4) Enter your email address.

### **FREE Resources:**

- Google Alerts
  - 1. Go to Google.com/alerts
  - 2. Add your business name to the Search Query field
  - 3. Choose Options: result type, frequency and quantity
  - 4. Enter your email address

### Alerts

Search query:		
Result type:	Everything	-
How often:	Once a day	
How many:	Only the best res	ults -
Your email:		
	CREATE ALERT	Manage your alerts



## TIPS: BUILD VISIBILITY & ENCOURAGE POSITIVE REVIEWS

### Local Search Directories - it's FREE!

- Google My Business, Yahoo Local, Yelp, Merchant Circle, Social Media too!
  - Claim and update profiles
  - Add links to directories via website & email

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## TIPS: BUILD VISIBILITY & ENCOURAGE POSITIVE REVIEWS

### **Internally: Sales Staff**

- Monthly reward / recognition for most mentions in customer reviews
- Certificate of acknowledgment

Job Well Done Award

Warm Reviews from Happy Customers

This Certifies that

Brian

Owner

has gone above and beyond to make a customer's experience a WARM one.

Month: October 2015

Shannon Good, Marketing Manager Logo goes here



## TIPS: BUILD VISIBILITY & ENCOURAGE POSITIVE REVIEWS

### **Internally: Staff**

- Don't discount employee's reviews online
  - Glass Door: customers & future employees can read your company reviews



 $\mathcal{O}$ 

Read Reviews from Employees See what real employees have to say about any company



#### Companies & Reviews

Glassdoor OpenCompany Check out the growing list of companies who embrace transparency on Glassdoor (G)

Employees Choice Awards See which companies employees rate the highest



## LinkedIn

 Company reviews are not available, so encourage employees to be active on LinkedIn and receive reviews on company's behalf.

### **Recommendations & Reviews**

**4.3 out of 5 1** Based on the opinion of 22 people

### Have Feedback About Your Business' Reviews Experience?

We've made changes to the Reviews tab and would love your feedback. What do you think of the new experience?

## Emil

Most Recent

Emily Zimmatore Parecommends Enchanted Fireside.

what a great company! They could have easily sold us a new insert for our fireplace but instead we were able to simply replace the blower motor. I highly highly recommend!!!

	🖒 Like	💭 Comment	⇔ Share	
9	Comment as Enchanted Fireside		0000	



## Facebook Reviews Tab

- Slide tab to visible tabs
- "Share" on timeline



Brian Baker P recommends North Carolina Water Consultants. June 12 at 4:55 PM · 🚱

We recently had a Hague water filtration system installed by Eddie and his team. Eddie is very personable and, after testing our water, took a lot of time reviewing the results and answering our questions. He is very knowledgeable about water! The system was installed in a timely and professional manner and we are very pleased with the results. We highly recommend NC Water Consultants.





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## LinkedIn

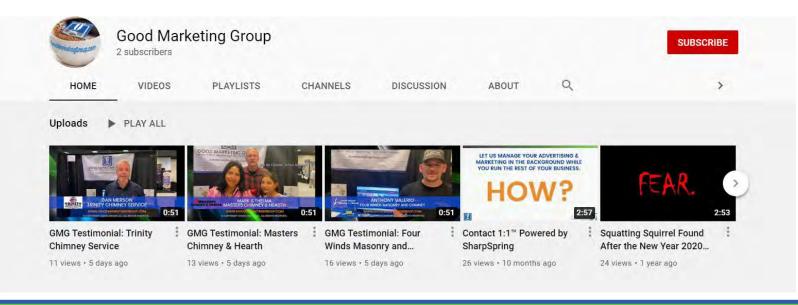
 Company reviews are not available, so encourage employees to be active on LinkedIn and receive reviews on company's behalf.





## YouTube

- Video reviews + keywords / tags
- Encourage customers to:
  - Follow channel
  - $\hfill \label{eq:add}$  Add videos to their YouTube channel AND share link w/ you
  - Create playlist of customer reviews



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## Keywords

- Pay-Per-Click campaigns
- Website pages







## Keywords

- Sales Materials:
  - Brochures/Leave Behinds
  - Displays
  - Banners
  - Business cards



HAPPY CLIENTS 00

### JEFF MARTIN. Martin Water Conditioning

"It has always been a very pleasant experience working with the entire team at Contact 11<sup>100</sup>. The radius mailing program they after allows us to more efficiently and affordably target new customers and we are seeing great results."

#### RANDY SHULER, Quality Life Solutions

\*\*\*\*\*

Contact 1:1<sup>M</sup> has made putting this mailer together a breeze. You took our thoughts and ideas coupled with your experience and made our first mailer a success the door hangers have also worked great. Our installers and service techs flive point each stop they make the mailer as well as the door hanger look awesome and generate calls. The cost of the mailer and door hangers paid for themselves in the first week. We look forward to the success that our next mailing will have. Thank you for all of your help we look forward to continue working with Contact 1.1<sup>TB</sup>.



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## Keywords

- Demographics:
  - direct mail
  - ppc campaigns

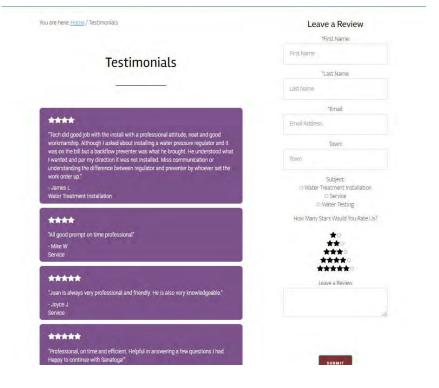






## Website:

- Testimonial page
- Header/footer icons
- Contact us page





## Website:

- Testimonial page
  - Ideally with videos
- Header/footer icons
- Contact us page

## **TESTIMONIALS** f 💟 🖾 🕂





#### \*\*\*\*\*

had a great plan for us and since we have hired their team, our numbers for calls has

#### Leave a Review

\*First Name:

"Last Name:

Last Name

\*Email:

Town:





### Website:

- Testimonial page
- Applicable inside page
- Contact us page

#### What is Search Engine Marketing?



We Are Google Certified

Also known as Google Ads or 'Pay-per-click', Search Engine Marketing is online advertising that is displayed when a searcher (ideally your prospective customer) types keywords, phrases or even has an online audience or behavior type that is related to or matches your text or display advertisement.

Remarketing Ads, AKA "stalking ads", follow online users who have already clicked on your ads or have visited your website. They work by dropping a 'cookie' on their browser and appearing when the users visit other, non-related sites (including social media sites).

This allows the advertiser to stay in the forefront of the customer's mind by by being seen so when they are ready, the user or prospect thinks of the advertisers product or service first, over the competitor!

Of course there is that pesky business of how much to bid/spend, but we are experts in helping our clients find the best bid rates to be marketable. Depending on a variety of algorithms (which changes regularly), the amount you pay for a given click gives you the opportunity to competitive advantage by positioning your website above the competition. PPC campaigns can run at the same time as Re-targeting campaigns and are easily tracked for effectiveness



" We have been using Good Marketing Group for all our marketing for almost 7 years. The biggest advantage to us is that the quality or our leads has improved year after year, and we are no longer burdened with the time and effort needed to deal with the various advertising solicitations that come in. I feel they have been a true partner in our growth. We do not have the time or knowledge to sift through and keep up with the ever changing landscape of online marketing, reputation management and so on- we leave it to the experts at the Good Marketing Group! "





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## Email:

Thank you blast

#### Thank you so much!

#### Hithere,

Thank you for taking the time to review us on social media. It's reviews like yours that help other property owners know that Trinity Chimney is a trusted service provider.

From our family to yours, thank you again and feel free to call us for anything else you might need.

- Dan Merson, Owner



Trinity Chimney





Hi there,

After you so kindly left us a review on our website, I sent you a request hoping you would be willing to leave the same review on our social media pages.

It looks like you didn't have a chance to leave a review yet. While it would be much appreciated so other property owners will be able to find us as well, I do understand that your time is valuable.

I hope you will take some time to leave the review, but if not, please know we are here to help with any future needs.

Thanks again for your business,

- Dan Merson, Owner

## Please click one or more buttons below to leave a review...

If you don't have an account with Facebook or Google, please at least leave a review on Yelp.



#### 000

Trinity Chimney



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## **Email:**

Thank you blast

## Email:

- Thank you blast
- Signature

#### Shannon M. Good Good Marketing Group

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Q&A Your Experiences Your Questions





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