A Quick (but Useful) Guide on Using Google Shopping Ads to Generate Sales and Revenue

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What are Google Shopping Ads?

- You've probably seen Google Shopping Ads in the past. They often appear, when you search for a product in Google.
- These ads are particularly effective, because they showcase a high quality product image, as well as the price of the product in question.
- Plus, because these ads tend to appear at the top of the search listings, your products are going to appear where searchers are going to be looking the most.
- Even if you're looking to boost sales for your offline store, Google Shopping Ads can help.

Setting up Google Shopping Ads

- Before you do anything else, you'll need to create a Google Merchant account if you do not already have one.
- Having a Google Merchant account, gives you the chance to provide Google with information related to your products.
- To set up a Google Merchant Account, visit https://merchants.google.com.
- Then go through the signup process. Once you're finished with the signup process, you need to create a 'Feed,' that contains the products your store supplies.
- To get that done, click on 'Feeds,' in the left hand column.
- By creating a feed, you're giving Google the information it needs to display your ads.
- Setting up your feed is not too difficult, as all you need to do is fill in a spreadsheet provided by Google.
- However, it can get a little bit complicated at times, so we recommend that you watch this video ahead of time.
- Once you've set up your Product Feed, you then need to link your AdWords account with your Google Merchant Account.
- To do that, click on 'Settings,' in the sidebar, and then select AdWords.
- Then click on 'Link Account.' If you do not have an AdWords account, you can set one up within the Merchant Centre.
- Once you've set up an AdWords account, you have the option of creating a Shopping Ads campaign from within the Merchant Centre.

- However, it is better to set up a campaign through Google AdWords.
- You can head over to this webpage, and Google will walk you through the process of setting up a 'Shopping Campaign.'
- When there, just click on the 'Guide Me' button. In any case, for those that want a quick overview, let's just briefly look at the process of setting up Shopping Ads.
- Login to your AdWords account and then click on '+Campaign.'
- Then select the 'Shopping,' option. Give your campaign a name.
- Then select the country for your campaign.
- **Important:** Make sure the country matches the country you used in your Product Feed.
- Then select the 'Networks,' you want your products to appear on.
- You then need to decide on a location for your campaign.
- Once you've done with deciding on a location, you'll need to focus on the bidding options.
- Pick a small amount, that is under \$10 or so, and test the waters.
- Once you have some results, say after a week, you can then decide if you want to increase campaign spend, or if you need to make some campaign changes.
- Leave the delivery method as it is for now.
- **Note:** Shopping Ads do not allow for you to pick keywords when advertising products.
- Shopping Ads work, by taking the products in your Product Feed, and then showing them using Google's own keyword data.
- So essentially, you're advertising based on products.
- Because Google has great data on the kinds of keywords people type in when searching for products like yours, your products will appear for the relevant keyword.
- However, if you really want to, you can add negative keywords to a campaign, to stop your products from appearing in relation to certain keywords.
- Such keywords might include those that have low buyer intent.
- Additionally, if you want to create campaigns for specified products, adjust the 'Advanced Shopping settings,' on the page where you initially set up your Shopping Ads campaign.
- This can be a good idea if you want to have tight control over the Shopping ads shown for each of your products.

- You'll notice that there is a section called 'Inventory filter.'
- This is where you can select the products that are going to be advertised, in your campaign.
 You can select products.

Category (1st level)

Brand

Item ID

Condition

Product type (1st level)

Custom label 0

Custom label 1

Custom label 2

Custom label 3

Custom label 4

Channel

Channel exclusivity

- As you might have guessed, this information is going to be pulled from your Product Feed.
- You may have also noticed an option called, 'Campaign priority.'
- This is helpful if you're running multiple campaigns, that advertise the same product.
- You can use this feature to give priority to certain products, so that they receive a higher bid, and therefore more exposure.
- You'll get an explanation from Google, in relation to the campaign Priority feature.
- Once done, click on Save and Continue. You'll then be taken to this page.
- Here you need to name the Ad Group, and add some promotional text, if need be (more on this later).

Strategies to maximize revenue when using Shopping Ads.

- If you're ads aren't bringing you the best results, consider adjusting the bids you have chosen.
- AdWords is based on a bidding system, meaning that whoever pays the most, or is willing to pay the most for an ad, generally receives the most exposure.
- So if you find that your ad is not generating any clicks, then think about raising the bid for your ad.
- When it comes to bidding for ads, it helps to know the lifetime value of a customer.
- When you know that, you have more freedom to bid higher amounts, as you can be sure that you'll be able to recover the cost.
- As well as that, if you're ad is not generating a lot of clicks, then you may want to give it a new image.
- If you want to change the image for your ad, you'll need to take a look at changing the image that is being sourced from your Product Feed.
- Images can have a massive impact in terms of whether someone clicks on your ads or not.
- If you're used to advertising on Facebook, then you'll know this to be true.
- Take a look at some of the other product images that appear when searching a keyword related to your product.
- If there are any that stand out, question what makes them look so appealing and what can be borrowed and implemented into your own campaigns.
- Retargeting is another great strategy you can use to maximize revenue when using Shopping Ads.
- With retargeting, what you're looking to do, is trigger a tracking pixel when someone visits your site, and then show them ads using other Google Ad products.
- Such Ad products might include YouTube Ads and Google Display Ads. Ideally, you'll want to create ads for specific products.
- So if someone clicks on a shopping ad, and looks at a particular pair of boots.
- You may also want to put some thought into optimizing your product descriptions.
- If you can ensure that the name of your product, accurately describes what is on offer, you'll be able to encourage some more clicks.

- Copy always matters and similar to what you'd expect with a normal AdWords ad, changing the words you use, can improve conversions.
- It's also a good idea to mention any promotions that you might be running.
- We touched on this earlier, when we were going through the process of setting up ads.
- Mentioning such benefits in the promotions section, can have a big impact on how people perceive your ad.
- After all, even if other companies do provide free shipping, the person viewing this ad doesn't know until they click on the other ad.
- But if you explicitly mention that you provide free shipping, in the ad, you have an advantage over other companies, right from the get go.
- Another thing we touched on earlier, that is worth revisiting, is the exclusion of certain keywords.
- To exclude keywords that are not benefiting your campaign, choose your campaign on the 'All Campaigns,' page.
- Then, click on 'Keywords.'
- Once there, use enter in any keywords that you want to exclude.
- You'll notice that there is the option to exclude keywords based, at 'Ad Group level,' and 'Campaign Level.'
- Your method for excluding keywords here, will depend on how you went about setting up your campaign in the first place.
- But what if you don't know what keywords to exclude? On the very same page, there is a link to a page known as 'Search Terms.'
- When you click on this button, you'll be able to see all the search terms that people have used, in order to come across your advertised products.
- This data is valuable for two reasons.
- Firstly, it can be used to inspire some negative keywords, of which you want to exclude.
- Secondly, you can analyze the keywords used, in order to find your products, and see if they
 provide any insight into how you can improve your product descriptions.