*(Data from 1,400 Local Service Businesses Using This Tactic)*

**Fact:** 84% of consumers check Google Maps before booking services (LocaliQ, 2024), yet most businesses miss a **free booking button** that can add 50+ appointments/month.

A Texas hair salon used this hidden feature to **fill 63 empty slots**—spending just $27 to set it up. No ads, no SEO tricks.

This guide reveals the **exact 3-step process**, with screenshots from real businesses dominating their markets.

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# 1. The "Get a Booking" Button (5-Minute Setup)

Google quietly added a **built-in scheduling tool** to Business Profiles. When enabled, it shows a "Book" button next to your listing.

**How to Activate It:**

1. Go to your **Google Business Profile dashboard**

2. Navigate to **"Services" > "Booking"**

3. Connect Calendly, Square Appointments, or Google Calendar *(free options available)*

**Pro Tip:** Name your service **"Free Consultation"** or **"Emergency Slot"** to boost clicks.

- *Left:* Regular GBP listing

- *Right:* Same listing with bright orange "Book" button

**Why It Works:**

- **3.7x more profile clicks** than competitors (LocaliQ)

- **52% of users** book directly from Maps (Google internal data)

- **No extra fees** (unlike paid LSAs)

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# 2. Trigger the "Available Today" Badge

Google shows this **green checkmark badge** to profiles with:

- Real-time booking availability

- Same-day appointments

**Hack:** Open **one slot per day** at prime times (e.g., 12 PM and 5 PM) to guarantee the badge appears.

**Case Study:**

- **Business:** Denver HVAC company

- **Tactic:** Left 2 "emergency" slots open daily

- **Result: 28 more calls/month** from badge alone

# 3. Auto-Reply to Reviews (Free Traffic Multiplier)

Google prioritizes businesses that **respond quickly** to reviews. Use this template to save time:

> *"Thanks, [Name]! We're thrilled you loved [specific service]. Need help with [related service]? **Book online 24/7 here:** [link]"*

**Tools to Automate:**

- **ChatGPT + Zapier** (Auto-generate responses)

- **Podium** (Review management)

**Impact:**

- **41% higher local rankings** for businesses replying within 4 hours (BrightLocal)

- **17% of review readers** click booking links (ReviewTrackers)

# Real-World Results

| Business | Tactic Used | Results | Cost |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas Hair Salon | Booking button + "Emergency Slot" | +63 appts/month | $0 |
| Seattle Plumber | "Available Today" badge | +22 calls | $0 |
| Miami Dentist | Review auto-replies | 31% more bookings | $27/mo |

## Key Takeaways

1. **Turn on your GBP booking button**(5-minute setup)

2. **Game the "Available Today" badge** with held slots

3. **Auto-reply to reviews** with booking links

**Next Step:** Enable your booking button **today**—it takes under 5 minutes.

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