









Holiday Season Checklist for Advertisers (2018)

BUDGET	CRITICAL Adjust budgets for increased traffic during holiday season If budget is constrained, consider re-allocating budget from other campaigns with less traffic		
	Set Budget Delivery Mode to 'Standard' Avoid 'Accelerated' as many clicks/conversions in the holiday season are in the evenings		
	Plan budget for seasonal campaigns <i>before</i> peak holiday events Including pre-sales for days before peak weekends such as Black Friday, Halloween, Christmas		
AUDIENCES	CRITICAL Add your top remarketing lists to all campaigns Equivalent lists to 'all visitors', 'product page viewers', 'cart abandoners', and 'buyers/converters'		
	Increase bid modifiers in highly competitive holiday season (or use smart bidding) Bid modifiers of at least 150% to 300% are recommended for top audience lists (also if using eCPC)		
	CRITICAL Add 'Similar Audience' lists to all campaigns to target new customers Equivalent to 'similar to all visitors' and 'similar to buyers' (don't forget to adjust bid modifiers)		
	Set audience lists' membership duration as high as possible * In addition, benefit from long list membership duration as valuable signal for smart bidding		
	Utilize the full scope of (new) Audience Solutions In-Marked Audiences, Tagless Remarketing, Smart Display Campaigns, Gmail Ads, Custom Intent, etc.		
	Target all age & gender buckets, change topic targeting to advanced audiences Include 'unknown' age & gender buckets and ensure no crossing of topic/interest targeting		
SETTINGS	Be present on Mobile and influence in-store behaviour Re-evaluate mobile opt-outs & mSpeed; consider bid by distance, LIAS, and location extensions		
	Set Ad rotation mode to 'Optimize' Automatically show your best performing and most relevant ads		
	CRITICAL Opt-in Google search/video partners Maximize reach across Google Partners and target all devices		
	Adjust Frequency Capping (FC) and Ad Schedules Avoid FC & ad schedules for display (if using smart bidding); FC for video of at least 3 impr./week		
	Remove dayparting and activate Beta exclusion filters Target all devices and activate for all video campaigns		
	Ensure all products are in your feed for Dynamic Remarketing Check if all products are in your Merchant Center and if bids are added to ensure they are served		
AD FORMATS	CRITICAL Have more than 3 ads per ad group Including ETA and RSA (new), and responsive ads for Display - to receive up to 15% more conversions		
	Avoid any keyword conflicts and disapproved ads Fix disapproved ads or extensions, and remove conflicting negative keywords		
	CRITICAL Use at least 3 extensions per ad (incl. promotion/price extensions) Allow AdWords to automatically serve the best extension combination for each query		
	Show Shopping & Text Ads together and add Showcase Ads to your Shopping campaigns PLA & Text ads combined increase CTR. Cover all key categories of your product portfolio		
	Utilize all major video ads formats (TrueView for Action) YouTube: TrueView Discovery, 6" Bumpers; GDN: Outstream, Gmail Video Ads, Lighbox Ads		
	Maximize your conversion value through machine learning supported ad types Implement Dynamic Search Ads, Smart Display Campaigns or Smart Shopping Campaigns		
BIDDING	CRITICAL Activate autom. bidding (at least eCPC) across all ad groups/ campaigns Allows to take advantage of Google's unique auction-time signals (compatible with 3P bidding)		
	Target CPA bidding: Utilize Smart bidding for CPA goals Use tCPA for ad groups / campaigns with at least 30 conversions (last 30 days)		
	Target ROAS bidding: Utilize Smart bidding for ROAS (or 'KUR') goals Use tROAS for ad groups / campaigns with at least 15 (recom.: 50) conversions (last 30 days)		
ATTRIBUTION	Use site-wide tagging Ensure flawless measurement and right decision making		
	Non last click Attribution Discover the real value for every touchpoint of a user-journey		
	Measure store visits & create local campaigns Connect your online and offline touchpoints for omni-channel success		