



'The Net' Works

Free Google Phone Tools

by Matt Keelan

Have you looked at your home or cell bill lately? Phone companies are charging up to \$1.79 for a single directory assistance call!

Enter GOOG-411. Our good friends at Google are providing free business listings from any phone by dialing 800-GOOG-411 (800-466-4411). And, unlike some of its competitors, GOOG-411 is ad free!

Google's service is voice activated. Simply say the city and state of the listing you're looking for, or enter its zip code on the keypad. Then tell GOOG-411 either the name of the business or the category (such as pizza) and the service will offer you a selection of relevant businesses. Choose the business you'd like and GOOG-411 will automatically connect you.

If you are calling from a cell phone, GOOG-411 can do even more tricks. If you want to know more about the business you've selected, say "Text Message" and Google will text you with more information about the business. And if you want a map of the business sent to your smart phone, just say "Map It!"

Google also has a free information service via text messaging called Google SMS. Simply text a search query to GOOGLE (466453) and Google will reply with your results in seconds. For example, if you text "home depot 75080," Google will reply with the two closest locations along with their address and phone number. You may also search for a category and a city and state as in "coffee new york ny."

But, unlike GOOG-411, Google SMS can also provide:

- Flight information ("flight aa 2124")
- Sports scores ("red sox" or "sf giants")
- Weather conditions ("weather 75080" or "weather dallas tx")
- Movie showtimes ("movies 75080" or "movies dallas tx")
- Stock quotes ("stock goog")
- Glossary ("define dank")

Google SMS also has a calculator, currency converter, foreign language translator and more. For a complete list text "help" to Google SMS or visit m.google.com/sms from your smart phone.

Warning: Both of these services are free from Google but charges from your carrier for usage may apply.

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