

Auto detailing studio Business Plan: A Proven Sample for US Entrepreneurs

LusterPro Auto Detailing Studio, LLC (Texas LLC founded March 15, 2024) operates a hybrid mobile/studio detailing business in Austin targeting owners of vehicles 2018+ model year with household income \$75,000+. We charge \$69-\$1,199 per service with \$320 average ticket, targeting \$325,000 Year 1 revenue at 65% gross margin. Marcus Reed (70% owner) scaled previous detailing chain to \$2.1M revenue in 3 years; Elena Vasquez (30% owner) generated \$420k revenue via digital campaigns for local service brands in 2023.

1. Executive Summary

U.S. auto detailing businesses lose \$1.2B annually to mobile service gaps (IBISWorld 2023), with 68% of Austin customers preferring on-location service but 82% of local competitors operating only from fixed facilities (Google Maps audit, Jan 2024). LusterPro solves this via 3 mobile units serving 25-mile radius plus 1,200 sq. ft. studio for intensive work, using closed-loop water systems to eliminate chemical runoff. We capture customers paying 15-20% premium for eco-certified services: \$79 Basic Wash (vs. \$65 competitor average) with \$22 COGS.

Revenue model: 60% mobile (\$69-\$199 services), 40% studio (\$199-\$1,199). Year 1: 85 jobs/month avg at \$320 ticket = \$325,000 revenue. COGS holds at 35% (\$113,750) via \$1,200/month chemical sourcing from EcoTech Auto Solutions. Fixed costs: \$12,500/month (rent \$4,000, loan \$867, insurance \$458). Break-even at 60 jobs/month achieved Month 8; EBITDA positive Month 14 with \$26,250 net profit Year 1.

Seeking \$74,000 SBA 7(a) loan (40% of \$185,000 startup) at 7.5% over 10 years. Funds allocated: \$60,000 mobile vans (3 units), \$35,000 studio buildout, \$15,000 marketing launch. Enables 60-job/month break-even by Month 8, \$780,000 Year 3 revenue, and 18.5% ROI by Year 3.

2. Company Overview

Texas LLC formed March 15, 2024 for liability protection and pass-through taxation. Leased 1,200 sq. ft. light industrial space at 5400 Burnet Road, Austin (rent \$4,000/month) in ZIP 78756 - top Austin MSA area for households with 2+ vehicles (42% density, U.S. Census 2023). Service radius: 25 miles covering 1.2M residents with median income \$82,300 (Austin Chamber 2023).

Marcus Reed (CEO, 70%): Grew Austin Detail Co. from \$0 to \$2.1M revenue in 3 years (2019-2022), achieving 28% net margins. Elena Vasquez (CMO, 30%): Drove \$420k revenue for HVAC startup via Facebook/Google Ads in 2023 (CAC \$41.20, 22% conversion).

Date	Milestone	Status	Next Steps
Mar 15, 2024	LLC formation	Complete	N/A
Apr 10, 2024	Studio lease signed	Complete	Buildout completion by May 15
May 1, 2024	Mobile van #1 operational	Complete	Vans #2-3 by June 1
Jun 15, 2024	Soft launch (50 bookings)	Complete	Scale to 60 jobs/month by Aug
Aug 30, 2024	Break-even target	Target	Track daily job count vs 60 threshold
Oct 1, 2024	LusterCare Club launch	Target	Acquire 35 subscribers by Dec
Jan 15, 2025	San Antonio market test	Target	Run 200 Google Ads leads at \$3.50 CPC
Mar 31, 2025	EBITDA positive	Target	Verify \$18,500 monthly gross profit

3. Market Analysis

TAM: \$12.8B U.S. auto detailing (IBISWorld 2023). SAM: \$420M Texas metro areas (Austin/Dallas/Houston/San Antonio at 3.3% of national market). SOM: \$1.8M Austin MSA (0.15% penetration of 120,000 target households with \$75k+ income and 2018+ vehicles, per U.S. Census 2023).

Target customers: 30-55 year olds with \$75k+ household income. 42% own 2+ vehicles (Austin MSA 2023). Budget: \$100-\$400/service (68% pay >\$150 for ceramic coating, McKinsey 2023). Buying behavior: 82% book online after checking Google reviews (minimum 4.7 stars required).

Market trends: 18% YoY EV registration growth in Texas (Comptroller 2023); 73% of consumers pay 10-15% premium for eco-friendly services (Nielsen 2023); mobile detailing demand up 22% since 2021 (IBISWorld).

Segment	Size (\$)	Growth Rate	Our Share Target	Rationale
Luxury vehicle owners	\$620,000	8.1%	3.5%	High retention (45% repeat rate); 12% Austin MSA penetration
EV owners	\$310,000	18.0%	5.0%	EV registrations up 18% YoY; need plastic-safe cleaners
Fleet operators	\$540,000	6.2%	2.0%	3+ vehicle discounts; 22% of Austin commercial fleets outsource
General premium	\$330,000	4.0%	1.5%	Price-sensitive; 68% require mobile option

Category	Total Addressable	Serviceable Available	Serviceable Obtainable	Methodology
U.S. Market	\$12.8B	N/A	N/A	IBISWorld 2023 revenue data
Texas Metro Areas	N/A	\$420M	N/A	3.3% of national market (TX population 8.8% of U.S.)
Austin MSA	N/A	N/A	\$1.8M	120,000 target households x \$150 avg annual spend

4. Competitive Analysis

Austin has 27 detailing businesses (Google Maps, Jan 2024). Top competitors: ShineWave Mobile (est. \$480k revenue, 4.6 stars), Austin Premier Auto Spa (\$620k revenue, \$1,500 ceramic coating), Detail Depot TX (franchise, \$350k/location). All lack EPA-compliant water reclamation; ShineWave uses toxic waxes (MSDS review).

Competitive advantages: 1) Mobile/studio hybrid (3 vans + fixed bay) reduces customer acquisition cost (CAC) to \$58.60 vs. \$72 industry average; 2) Waterless techniques cut water usage 80% (EPA testing); 3) 4.9 Google rating target via photo documentation system; 4) EV-specific protocols (plastic-safe cleaners) capture 18% YoY growing segment.

Competitor	Revenue Est.	Pricing	Key Strength	Key Weakness	Our Differentiation
ShineWave Mobile	\$480,000	\$65 Basic Wash	Mobile-only speed	No water reclamation; toxic chemicals	EPA-compliant runoff system; Green Seal certified
Austin Premier	\$620,000	\$1,500 ceramic	Luxury facility	No mobile; \$25/mile service fee	Free pickup within 10 miles; 25-mile radius
Detail Depot TX	\$350,000	\$79 Basic Wash	Brand recognition	Franchise rigidity; no EV expertise	EV-safe protocols; 35% repeat rate target
Sonic Automotive	\$1.2M	\$120 Basic Wash	Dealership access	3-week wait times	48-hour booking; same-day emergency service
Jiffy Lube	\$200,000	\$49 Basic Wash	Low price	Limited to washes; no detailing	Premium restoration services; 65% margin vs 40%

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Hybrid model (mobile + studio)	Limited brand awareness	18% YoY EV growth	Price wars with franchises
EPA-compliant water systems	High startup costs (\$185k)	Corporate fleet contracts	Winter demand drop (22%)

4.9 Google rating target	Reliant on 2 key staff	Tesla service center partnership	New competitor entry (20% probability)
EV detailing specialization	Small service radius (25 miles)	Subscription model (LusterCare)	Chemical regulation changes

5. Products & Services

Core services: Exterior (Basic Wash \$79, Ceramic Coating \$399-\$799), Interior (Deep Restoration \$199), Full Packages (Platinum Protection \$1,199). Mobile units perform 60% of jobs (Basic Wash, Express Refresh) using 50-gallon freshwater tanks and 40-gallon wastewater containment. Studio handles 40% (paint correction, PPF) with 220V outlets and HEPA filtration. All services include pre-service photo documentation and 30-day defect guarantee.

Pricing set 15-20% above competitors based on Green Seal certification (\$0.80/unit cost premium) and labor rates (\$24/hour vs \$20 industry average). Tiered structure drives 60% upgrade rate from Basic to Premium Wash (acquired via \$20 add-on offer at booking).

Tier	Price	Features	Target Customer	Expected % Revenue	Gross Margin
Basic Wash	\$79	Exterior wash/wax	General premium	25%	68%
Premium Wash	\$149	+Clay bar, sealant	Luxury/EV owners	30%	65%
Ceramic Coating	\$399-\$799	1-3 year protection	Luxury/EV owners	25%	62%
Interior Restoration	\$199	Leather conditioning	Fleet operators	15%	70%
LusterCare Club	\$79/mo	Monthly refresh + 20% off	Repeat customers	5%	55%

Metric	Value	Calculation/Notes
Price per unit	\$320	Weighted avg of 85 jobs/month
COGS per unit	\$112	Chemicals \$42 + Labor \$60 + Supplies \$10
Gross Profit/unit	\$208	\$320 - \$112
Gross Margin	65%	\$208 / \$320
CAC	\$58.60	\$8,500 marketing / 145 customers

LTV	\$594	$\$320 \times (1/0.35 \text{ churn}) \times 0.65 \text{ margin}$
LTV:CAC	10.1	$\$594 / \58.60
Payback Period	2.8 months	$\text{CAC} / (\$208 \text{ GP} \times 30\% \text{ monthly retention})$

6. Marketing & Sales

Go-to-market: Google Ads targeting "mobile car detailing Austin" (CPC \$3.50, CTR 8.2%) + Facebook Ads targeting Tesla owners in ZIPs 78704/78759 (CPM \$12.50). \$8,500/month budget yields 145 leads (Google 95, Facebook 50) at \$58.60 CAC. Conversion rate 45% from quote request to booking via Acuity Scheduling.

Sales cycle: 1) Ad click (4.1% conversion), 2) Quote request (3.2% website conversion), 3) Booking (45% quote-to-booking rate), 4) Retention (35% join \$79/mo LusterCare Club). Average cycle: 3.2 days. 60% of Basic Wash customers upgrade to Premium when offered \$20 add-on during booking.

Retention: Automated SMS service reminders (3-month intervals) yield 22% rebooking rate. Birthday discount (20% off) drives 18% redemption. "Refer 3 Friends = free ceramic coating" generates 12% referral rate. Target churn: 35% annually (2.9% monthly).

Channel	Monthly Budget	Expected CAC	E Conversion L Rate	Expected Customers/Month	ROI	
Google Ads	\$5,000	\$52.63	954.1%	85	297%	
Facebook Ads	\$2,000	\$40.00	50	4.0%	40	420%
Referral Program	\$1,000	\$25.00	N/A2%	20	784%	
Direct Mail	\$500	\$83.33	6 2.5%	5	284%	

Month	Google Ads	Social Media	Content/SEO	Events	Other	Total	Expected Leads	Expected Customers
1	5000	2000	1000	0	1500	9500	151	68
2	5000	2000	500	0	500	8000	145	65
3	5000	2000	500	0	500	8000	145	65
4	5000	2000	500	0	500	8000	145	65
5	5000	2000	500	0	500	8000	145	65
6	5000	2000	500	0	500	8000	145	65
7	5000	2000	500	0	500	8000	145	65
8	5000	2000	500	0	500	8000	145	65
9	5000	2000	500	0	500	8000	145	65
10	5000	2000	500	0	500	8000	145	65
11	5000	2000	500	0	500	8000	145	65
12	5000	2000	500	0	500	8000	145	65

7. Operations

Daily workflow: 1) Customer books via Acuity (avg. 24-hour lead time), 2) Samsara GPS routes mobile unit (4 jobs/day/van), 3) Pre-service inspection with photo documentation, 4) Service execution (Basic Wash: 45 mins), 5) Digital invoice via Stripe. Studio capacity: 4 jobs/day (paint correction: 4 hours/job). Mobile units operate 7am-8pm; studio 8am-6pm. Peak capacity: 12 jobs/day (8 mobile, 4 studio).

Key vendors: EcoTech Auto Solutions (chemicals, \$1,200/month, net 30 terms, backup: Chemical Guys), DetailXPerts Supply Co. (tools, \$600/month, net 15, backup: Meguiar's), U-Haul (vans, \$450/month/unit, 12-month lease, backup: Ryder). Technology stack chosen for integration: HubSpot CRM (\$50/month) syncs with Acuity Scheduling.

Vendor/Supplier	Service	Monthly Cost	Contract Terms	Backup Option
EcoTech Auto Solutions	Eco detailing chemicals	1200	Net 30; 5% discount >\$10k quarterly	Chemical Guys (\$1,350/month)
DetailXPerts Supply Co.	Microfiber, tools	600	Net 15; free shipping >\$500	Meguiar's (\$680/month)
U-Haul	Mobile van leasing	1350	12-month lease; \$250 early termination	Ryder (\$1,420/month)
Samsara	Fleet GPS tracking	75	Month-to-month	Verizon Connect (\$82/month)

Tool	Purpose	Monthly Cost	Users	Alternatives Considered
HubSpot	CRM, email marketing	50	3	Zendesk (rejected: \$99/month)
Acuity Scheduling	Booking, payments	29	3	Setmore (rejected: no Stripe integration)
QuickBooks Online	Accounting	30	2	Xero (rejected: no SBA loan tracking)
Samsara	Fleet GPS	75	2	Verizon Connect (rejected: \$82/month)

8. Management Team

Organizational structure: CEO (Marcus Reed) oversees P&L; CMO (Elena Vasquez) manages marketing/sales; Lead Detailer (Jamal Carter) supervises operations. Compensation: Owner salaries deferred until Month 14; staff paid \$22-\$28/hour + 5% revenue bonus at 100+ jobs/month. No equity grants in Year 1.

Advisory board: David Chen (ex-CFO Maaco) - SBA loan structuring; Lisa Torres (EPA compliance specialist) - wastewater protocols. Both compensated \$150/hour for quarterly reviews.

Month	Role	Salary	Priority	Source	Onboarding Time
1	Lead Detailer	28/hr	High	Indeed	2 weeks
1	Mobile Tech	22/hr	High	Craigslist	1 week
3	Admin (PT)	18/hr	Medium	Upwork	3 days
7	Mobile Tech #2	22/hr	Medium	Employee referral	1 week
10	Sales Coordinator	35k base	Low	LinkedIn	2 weeks

9. Financial Plan

Key assumptions: Year 1: 15 new customers/month (grows to 25/month Year 2). Avg revenue per customer: \$320. Monthly churn: 2.9% (35% annual). COGS: 35% of revenue (\$42 chemicals, \$60 labor, \$10 supplies per \$320 job). Marketing: \$8,500/month fixed. Salaries: \$6,200/month starting Month 3.

Revenue growth driven by: 1) Google Ads scaling to 95 leads/month at \$52.63 CAC, 2) 35% LusterCare Club adoption (\$79/mo recurring), 3) 60% upgrade rate to Premium Wash. Year 3 revenue \$780,000 requires 200 jobs/month (120 mobile, 80 studio).

Cost structure: 65% variable (COGS), 35% fixed (rent, software, loan). Fixed costs: \$12,500/month (rent \$4,000, loan \$867, insurance \$458, software \$154). Variable costs scale linearly with jobs. Year 3 operating expenses \$405,000 at \$780,000 revenue (52% OpEx ratio).

Funding: \$185,000 startup cost. \$111,000 owner equity (60%), \$74,000 SBA loan (40%). Loan covers 32% of startup costs. Provides 14 months runway to EBITDA positivity. Milestones funded: Break-even (Month 8), LusterCare launch (Month 10), San Antonio test (Month 10).

Cost Item	Cost	Notes
Legal formation filing	300	State fee + registered agent
Licensing/Permits license	250	Austin permit
Equipment mobile vans (used)	60000	2020 Ford Transits, outfitted
Equipment polishers, vacuums	22000	Ryobi, Shop-Vac commercial
Technology website development	3500	WordPress + Acuity integration

	Technology, printers	4000	3 iPads, mobile printer
	Initial Chemicals, supplies Inventory	8000	3-month stock
	Marketing/FB Ads Launch	15000	Months 1-3 spend
	Working month reserve Capital	20000	OpEx coverage
	Insurance liability + auto	5500	Annual premium
	Professional accounting setup Fees	1500	QuickBooks configuration
	Office/Facility deposit (3 mo)	12000	\$4,000 x 3
	Office/Facility improvements	35000	Bays, plumbing signage
	Contingency buffer	18500	Standard for service startups
	TOTAL	185000	

C Type	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost	Notes
Refined	4000	48000	Studio lease

Salaries	Variable	6200	74400	2 staff from Month 3; 4 by Month 10
Benefits	Variable	930	11160	15% of payroll
Insurance	Fixed	458	5500	Liability + auto
Software	Fixed	154	1850	HubSpot, Acuity, QuickBooks
Utilities	Fixed	350	4200	Electricity, water, internet
Marketing	Fixed	8500	102000	Google/Facebook Ads, referrals
Professional Services	Fixed	250	3000	Accounting, legal
Supplies	Variable	1700	20400	Chemicals, microfiber (35% of revenue)
Loan Payment	Fixed	867	10400	SBA 7(a) at 7.5%, 10 years
Vehicle Maintenance	Variable	450	5400	\$150/month
Other	Variable	500	6000	Credit card fees, travel

Total Cash In	89000	22000	26000	28000	30000	32000	33000	34000	35000	35000	35000	35000
Cash Out	97367	24317	35317	32617	34617	36617	37617	38617	39617	45617	45617	45617
Net Cash Flow	-8367	-2317	-9317	-4617	-4617	-4617	-4617	-4617	-4617	-10617	-10617	-10617
Ending Cash	11633	9316	0	-4617	-9234	-13851	-18468	-23085	-27702	-38319	-48936	-59553

Metric	Y1	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y3 Total
Revenue	325000	130000	140000	150000	160000	200000	210000	220000	230000	780000
COGS	113750	45500	49000	52500	56000	70000	73500	77000	80500	273000
Gross Profit	211250	84500	91000	97500	104000	130000	136500	143000	149500	507000
OpEx	247650	70000	72000	74000	76000	95000	97000	99000	101000	405000
EBITDA	-36400	14500	19000	23500	28000	35000	39500	44000	48500	102000
Net Income	-60450	-1000	8000	15000	22000	28000	33000	38000	43000	102000
Ending Cash	-59553	-48000	-25000	5000	40000	75000	115000	160000	210000	210000

Metric	Value	Calculation
Monthly Fixed Costs	12500	Rent \$4,000 + Loan \$867 + Insurance \$458 + Software \$154 + Base Salaries \$7,021
Variable Cost per Service	112	Chemicals \$42 + Labor \$60 + Supplies \$10
Price per Service	320	Weighted average
Contribution Margin per Unit	208	\$320 - \$112
Contribution Margin %	65%	\$208 / \$320
Break-Even Units per Month	60	\$12,500 / \$208

Break-Even Revenue per Month	19200	60 units x \$320
Expected Break-Even Month	8	Month 8: \$34,000 revenue (106 jobs)
Safety Margin	43.4%	(\$34,000 - \$19,200) / \$34,000

Metric	Y1	Y2	Y3	Industry Benchmark
Gross Margin %	65.0%	65.0%	65.0%	50-70% (services)
Operating Margin %	-11.2%	5.8%	13.1%	5-15% (mature service)
Net Profit Margin %	-18.6%	1.1%	13.1%	5-10%
Current Ratio	1.8	2.3	3.1	1.5-3.0
Quick Ratio	1.5	1.9	2.6	1.0-2.0
CAC Payback Period	2.8 months	2.5 months	2.2 months	3-12 months
LTV:CAC Ratio	10.1	11.2	12.5	3:1 minimum
Monthly Burn Rate	5000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Runway (months)	14	N/A	N/A	N/A

10. Risk Analysis

Top risks: 1) Seasonal demand drop (22% revenue decline Q1, probability 4/5, impact 3/5) - mitigated by \$2,000 winter promo budget targeting interior restoration; 2) Key staff turnover (probability 3/5, impact 4/5) - mitigated by \$28/hr max wage (20% above market) and 5% revenue bonus; 3) Chemical regulation changes (probability 2/5, impact 5/5) - mitigated by Lisa Torres advisory (\$150/hr) for EPA compliance.

Mitigation specifics: Seasonal risk addressed via December "Winter Storage Package" (\$199) promoted to 5,000 Tesla owners via Facebook Ads (\$500 budget). Staff retention: \$2,000 signing bonus for Lead Detailer role. Regulatory: Quarterly wastewater audits at \$300/test.

Risk	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Mitigation Strategy	Contingency Plan	Owner
Seasonal demand drop	4	3	12	\$2,000 winter promo budget; target interior services	Reduce mobile staff to 1 unit Jan-Feb	CEO
Staff turnover	3	4	12	\$28/hr wage + 5% revenue bonus	Cross-train admin for detailing	CEO
Chemical regulation	2	5	10	Quarterly EPA audits (\$300/test)	Switch to Chemical Guys products	CMO
Vehicle damage claims	3	4	12	Digital photo documentation; \$1M insurance	Reserve \$5k for claims	Lead Detailer
Mobile fleet downtime	2	3	6	Preventive maintenance (\$150/van/month)	Lease backup van from Ryder	Operations
Google Ads algorithm change	3	3	9	Diversify to Facebook (25% of ad spend)	Boost referral program budget	CMO
EV market slowdown	2	2	4	Expand fleet contracts	Reduce ceramic coating focus	CEO
Water reclamation failure	1	5	5	Monthly system checks; TCEQ certification	Use fixed studio only during repair	Operations

11. Implementation Timeline

Priority 1: Achieve 60 jobs/month break-even by Month 8 via Google Ads scaling (target 95 leads/month at \$52.63 CAC). Priority 2: Launch LusterCare Club Month 10 to drive recurring revenue (target 35 subscribers). Critical path: Studio buildout completion by May 15 (Month 2) to avoid \$4,000 rent loss. Dependencies: Samsara GPS integration (Month 1) required for mobile routing.

Month	Milestone	Deliverables	Resources Needed	Success Metric	Owner
1	Studio buildout	2 detailing bays operational	\$35k leasehold budget	Pass city inspection	CEO
1	Van outfitting	3 mobile units equipped	\$60k van budget	Complete 5 test jobs	Operations
2	Google Ads launch	Campaigns live	\$5k ad budget	CTR >8.2%	CMO
3	Staff hiring	Lead Detailer onboarded	\$28/hr salary	Pass skills test	CEO
4	Soft launch	50 booked jobs	Acuity setup	4.7+ Google rating	CMO
5	Process refinement	Service time <45 mins	Samsara data	10 jobs/day capacity	Operations
6	Break-even prep	55 jobs achieved	Marketing analytics	Track daily to 60 threshold	CEO
7	Break-even	65 jobs completed	Cash flow report	\$1,288 EBITDA	CEO
8	LusterCare beta	15 subscribers	CRM setup	20% conversion rate	CMO
9	Full LusterCare launch	Marketing campaign	\$1,000 promo budget	35 subscribers	CMO
10	San Antonio test	200 Google Ads leads	\$3,500 ad budget	15 bookings at \$3.50 CPC	CEO
12	Year 1 review	Financial audit	Accountant (\$500)	\$325k revenue achieved	CEO

12. Appendix

Supporting documents: 1) SBA loan term sheet (7.5% interest, 10 years), 2) EcoTech Auto Solutions supply agreement (5% discount >\$10k), 3) Austin wastewater compliance certificate. Key assumptions documented in Section 9 financial tables. All data sources: IBISWorld 2023, U.S. Census 2023, Texas Comptroller 2023, Nielsen 2023.