



## Products Dentists Can't Live Without

**Gordon's Clinical Observations:** We know you have products in your practice that are indispensable to you, that you use every day, and you take for granted. A recent CR survey identified these types of products. What if those products became unavailable and had no substitutes on the market? You may not know of these valuable products. *Consider the products in this article for your practice, since many dentists find them to be necessary and indispensable.*

**The major goal of this article** is to identify individual products or concepts practicing dentists consider to be essential and indispensable.

- Thousands of companies make products for dental professionals, and this is confusing.
- Many dentists (*especially newly graduated dentists*) **do not** know the products that are considered to be indispensable by their colleagues. The survey shows these products.
- Some product brands dominate specific categories and should be considered.

**This article includes for your consideration the indispensable products and concepts that have been identified by your peers with CR comments and suggestions about each category.**

The following CR survey research ( $n=628$ , 94% general practitioners) was accomplished on select, commonly used dental products and concepts. The research and CR comments are organized by:

- 1. Essential/indispensable.** Products and concepts that at least 30% or more of dentists consider essential, indispensable, and nearly impossible to replace with another product. **Products identified by 40% or more have photos.**
- 2. Essential/indispensable concepts with numerous product brands.** These concepts are considered essential and important, but with a wide variety of adequate brand names.
- 3. The top products** in each category are listed in decreasing order of responses.

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## Boost Composite Performance: Tips for Placement and Longevity

**Gordon's Clinical Observations:** It is well known that longevity of posterior composite restorations lags far behind that of amalgam restorations. In addition, placement of composite is typically more technique-sensitive than for amalgam. Yet the demand for tooth-colored esthetics has generally made composite the material of choice for direct restorations today. What can clinicians do to help mitigate the shortcomings of composite in order to maximize its performance? *In this article, CR clinicians and scientists have compiled valuable tips to improve composite performance at placement and in service.*

Recent CR survey data was collected from 619 clinicians (95% general dentist) on composite restoration performance:

1. How satisfied are you with the overall performance of current resin-based composites?  
– 63% Very satisfied    – 36% Satisfied    – 1% Dissatisfied
2. What specific complaints do you have about performance of composites? (*multiple answers possible*)
 

<b>#1 Most reported:</b> Difficulty in placement ( <i>issues with viscosity/stickiness</i> )	<b>#4:</b> Inadequate period of service
<b>#2:</b> Inadequate adaptation to prep	<b>#5:</b> Excessive time to finish and polish
<b>#3:</b> Shrinkage ( <i>contributes to margin breakdown</i> )	<b>#6:</b> Lack of cariostatic activity
	<i>Multiple others mentioned</i>

- **Composite quality and ease of use continue to improve**, in general, with better esthetics, handling, wear, and less shrinkage than previous versions. Product improvements by manufacturers are ongoing.

- **Enhancements in clinical technique and product selection** improve clinical outcomes of current composite restorations.

**This article offers suggested techniques and products to boost the overall performance of resin-based composites in your practice.**

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## Products Rated Highly by Evaluators in CR Clinical Trials

*The following four products were rated excellent or good by CR Evaluator use and science evaluations.*

### CASI-3C & CASI-3L:

Improved sculpting instruments produce natural anatomy and convexity in direct restorations

### Glassix+plus:

Radiopaque and light transmitting fiber posts with smooth cutting drills

### Vanilla Bite:

Bite registration material with fast set, rigidity, and well-received scent

### G-aenial Universal Injectable:

Universal resin-based composite with excellent gloss retention and wear resistance

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Composite warmers (e.g., Calset by AdDent) can make conventional fully filled composites slightly more flowable, and thus easier to adapt to cavity preps.