

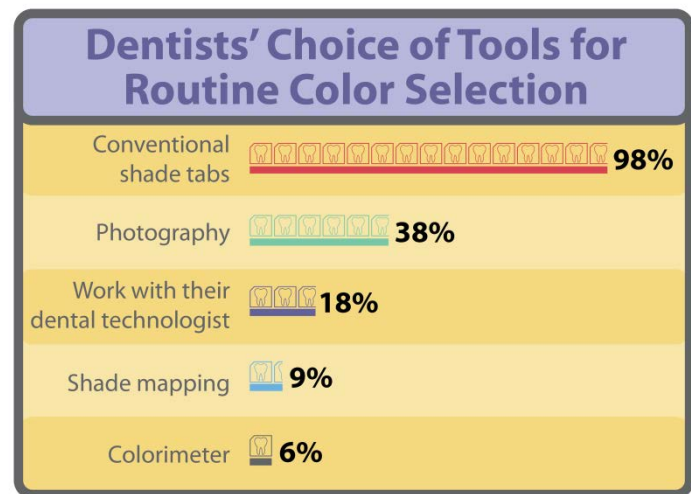
Quick Poll Results—Getting the Color Just Right

In our July 2016 Quick Poll of 385 dentists, slightly more than half (53 percent) of respondents reported having at least some difficulty selecting the correct shade for a new or repaired tooth. Only about 55 percent of respondents said they had taken a continuing education course on color in dentistry.

When asked what approaches they use to perform shade selection for routine cases in their office, almost all (98 percent) of the study participants said they use conventional shade tabs. They use other options to a much lesser degree (see graph).

For challenging cases, respondents were more likely to seek help from a dental technologist than they were for the less challenging cases.

Why aren't more respondents attending a continuing education lecture or seminar on color in dentistry? About 25 percent had never seen an advertisement for one, 14 percent said they haven't been able to, and 5 percent didn't think it was important enough.



Here are some points to consider when selecting a shade:

- Most of the common shade guides were made for their respective porcelain systems—not for direct restorations.
- Are the lights in your clinic color corrected? In the Quick Poll, only 49 percent of respondents said their lights are color corrected.
- Shade selection and shade duplication are two different processes and equally important.
- Dental photography, along with shade mapping, can be very helpful when working with your dental technologist.

To continue the conversation, go to Quick Poll Results in the [Member Forum](#).