

**Table 3. Best and Worst Features of Impression Materials, According to Surveyed Dentists.**

Product (Manufacturer)	Best Feature (No. of Respondents)	Worst Feature (No. of Respondents)
<b>Affinis</b> (Coltene/Whaledent, Inc.)	Accuracy (n=12)	Set Time (n=4)
<b>Aquasil Ultra Smart Wetting</b> (DENTSPLY Caulk)	Accuracy (n=102)	Cost Effectiveness (n=99)
<b>Correct Plus</b> (Pentron Clinical Technologies, LLC)	Accuracy (n=11), Cost Effectiveness (n=11)	Hydrophilic Properties (n=8)
<b>Examix NDS</b> (GC America, Inc.)	Accuracy (n=33)	Hydrophilic Properties (n=24)
<b>Flexitime</b> (Heraeus Kulzer)	Set Time (n=11)	Cost Effectiveness (n=10)
<b>Genie Ultra Hydrophilic</b> (Sultan Healthcare, Inc.)	Cost Effectiveness (n=15)	Hydrophilic Properties (n=9)
<b>Impregum Penta Soft Quick Step</b> (3M ESPE)	Accuracy (n=25)	Cost Effectiveness (n=18)
<b>Imprint 3</b> (3M ESPE)	Accuracy (n=17)	Cost Effectiveness (n=22)
<b>Take 1</b> (Kerr Corp.)	Accuracy (n=27)	Cost Effectiveness (n=12)
<b>VP Mix</b> (Henry Schein, Inc.)	Cost Effectiveness (n=5)	Hydrophilic Properties (n=3), Set Time (n=3)

**Buyer's Summary for Impression Materials.**

Product Manufacturer (No. of Respondents)	Working Time (seconds)		Laboratory Score*	Clinical Impressions†						Price/cartridge‡
	23°C	35°C		Excellent %	Very Good %	Good %	Fair %	Poor %	Unacceptable %	
<b>Affinis</b> Coltene/Whaledent, Inc. (n=13)	80	30	96	25	49	20	5	1	0	\$7
<b>Aquasil Ultra Smart Wetting</b> DENTSPLY Caulk (n=140)	120	30	95	36	43	16	4	1	0	\$24
<b>Correct Plus</b> Pentron Clinical Technologies, LLC (n=18)	40	<10	89	26	51	20	2	1	0	\$12
<b>Examix NDS</b> GC America, Inc. (n=52)	200	70	88	37	47	13	2	1	0	\$15
<b>Flexitime</b> Heraeus-Kulzer (n=18)	140	50	93	37	46	13	4	0	0	\$19
<b>Genie Ultra Hydrophilic</b> Sultan Healthcare, Inc. (n=30)	50	<10	92	46	37	11	6	2	0	\$13
<b>Impregum Penta Soft Quick Step</b> 3M ESPE (n=31)	140	70	84	35	52	12	1	0	0	Light: \$26/cartridge Heavy: \$0.50/mL§
<b>Imprint 3</b> 3M ESPE (n=28)	120	40	97	63	29	7	1	0	0	\$23
<b>Take 1</b> Kerr Corp. (n=36)	120	40	95	36	50	13	1	0	0	\$20
<b>VP Mix</b> Henry Schein, Inc. (n=8)	120	30	89	32	42	26	0	0	0	\$7

\* The Lab Score is an average calculated from scores for the Basic Lab Tests (detail reproduction, dimensional stability, gypsum compatibility), elastic recovery, strain in compression and tear strength. The Basic Tests were pass/fail for which products could score 100 or 0; for the other tests, the best performer earned 100 points and the other products scored a percentage based on how their performance compared to the best.

† Via a Web-based survey of dentists who use these products (p 12). Clinical Impressions indicate the percentage of time a rating was selected for a product. Ratings are more reliable when based on a larger number of respondents.

‡ MSRP as of April 2006. Retail prices may vary.

§ A mixing unit is required for use with the heavy body material. Contact the manufacturer for pricing.

We also asked dentists to choose the best and worst features from a list of options for the products they reviewed. Table 3 shows responses based on a majority selection from the following options: accuracy, company reputation, cost effectiveness, hydrophilic properties, mixing system, packaging or delivery system, patient acceptance, rigidity or stiffness after polymerization, setting time, stability after polymerization and disinfection, versatility, working time, other.

**Join the ACE Panel!**

Are you an ADA member who is practicing clinical dentistry? If so, we want to hear from you. We count on the ADA Clinical Evaluators (ACE) Panel to tell us how products featured in the PPR perform clinically.

ACE Panel members volunteer a few hours per month to answer electronic surveys. At times, there also will be opportunities to participate in telephone interviews and panel discussions.

We are in the process of developing a website that only ACE Panel members will be able to access. Once that site is up, members can log on to see what surveys are planned or available. Until the site is up, we will contact you via e-mail with links to the new surveys.

We value the contribution that the ACE Panel makes to this program and are always looking for ways to say thank you. For example, active panel members currently receive a 15 percent discount on merchandise purchased through the ADA Catalog.

You can join the ACE Panel by e-mailing us at "pprclinical@ada.org" or by calling the ADA's toll-free number on the back of your membership card and asking for Ext. 3528.

**Note:** This Lab Score is based on a combination of properties and predicts the best single, all-around impression material for use in multiple clinical situations. As such, we chose the median strain in compression value as the "best." If you want a stiffer material (e.g. for bite registration) or a more flexible material, then your best choice would not be the highest score on this scale.