**The Top 8 Features**

That matter most in a handpiece

If you find that you are maintaining your handpieces more and more often, and dealing with frequent performance problems, it may be time to purchase new ones. Why limit yourself to buying replica replacements? Now is the time to find the right handpiece for you. Study this list of features through the lens of your own practice’s needs.

### Weight

Electric handpieces were once much heavier than air driven handpieces, but now, thanks to short technology, they are getting lighter. Purchasing a handpiece that weighs more or less than what you are accustomed to working with introduces a bit of a learning curve, because you will need to adjust to and balance its weight during procedures.

### Warranty

Not all warranties are created equal. You should ask about the length of the handpiece warranty, what to do in case you need repairs, and how much repairs may cost them when the warranty expires. You may want to ask how long repairs typically take, too.

### Access angle

Some handpieces have angles that allow for easier access to patients’ mouths. Envisioning how the angle of a new handpiece will affect this access is an important exercise before you buy.

### Head size and head diameter

Larger head size and diameter limits visibility during procedures, so this is a significant consideration when you are choosing a new handpiece.

### Lighting

Operatory lights are crucial, but sufficient illumination coming from dental handpieces is just as valuable. LED lights for handpieces are bright, cutting-edge, and long-lasting and a great option to consider.

### Noise

Patients often say that the most unpleasant part of visiting the dentist is the shrill whine of the drill, and loud handpieces damage the ears of dental professionals over time as well. Electric handpieces are much quieter than air, but you should ultimately choose the quietest handpiece available that also offers the most of your other desired features.

### Power (torque)

Electric handpieces will not lose cutting power when they meet resistance, unlike air-driven handpieces. Power needs may vary according to procedure.

### Spray ports

Ideally, water should be positioned around the bur in multiple outlets, to properly cool the tooth during procedures. This is another feature to be considered by envisioning the handpiece in action.

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The most important step is to study this list of features through the lens of your own practice’s needs. For example, if money is very tight, you will need to pick features that matter most to you and focus on finding a handpiece that meets those standards, rather than finding the best handpiece on the market.

If your practice does specific types of procedures, you may have different needs than a practice that offers a lot of different procedures. And, if you have extra money in the budget, you may want to consider an electric handpiece.