

THE DENTERACTIVE GUIDE TO FINDING YOUR IDEAL DENTIST



9 STEPS TO FINDING YOUR IDEAL DENTIST

1 Raise Your Dental IQ

To understand your special dental issues better, as well as good oral health practices in general, consult reliable online resources. You can find excellent articles and tips at the American Dental Association's www.HealthyMouth.org, the California Dental Association's fact sheet www.cda.org/public-resources/patient-fact-sheets, and our website www.Denteractive.com.

2 Start With Word of Mouth

Most people trust their friends to recommend new service providers. It isn't an infallible method of finding your perfect dental match, since even your family may not understand what you really need, but it's always worth asking. If they can report positive experiences with dentists who sound qualified for your issues, those should be at the top of your list to check out. If no one close to you has a recommendation, think about co-workers, customers, or vendors you know casually who have beautiful smiles. Or ask your social media connections.

3 Check for Qualified Professional Referrals

At www.Denteractive.com, search for dentists who have been screened for having the proper licensing, are in good standing with the state dental board, have special training for your dental needs, keep their skills top notch through continuous education courses, and are respected by their peers. Be skeptical about referral services that any dentist can pay to join.

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4 Review the Reviews


With the short list from friends and reliable referral sources, read what patients say about them on places like Yelp, Dr.Google, and HealthGrates. Of course, not every patient will have a positive experience, so the main fault may not have been the dentist's, so take criticisms with a grain of salt. A lot of specific complaints would, of course, be a red flag. Those who get generally positive comments deserve to have the testimonials on their website checked out, as well. Are they enthusiastic about specific accomplishments and willing to have their full names published? A lack of testimonials or full names doesn't mean the dentist isn't excellent—he or she may have been too busy to solicit comments and wanted to protect the privacy of patients.

5 Cruise the Website

With a shorter list, visit the website and see if it is visitor friendly. Does the dentist's biography make him or her sound competent and personable? Does the site show a smiling staff in well-kept office that is inviting? Are there informative articles that aren't loaded with jargon you don't understand? Does the dentist claim to specialize in exactly what you need, like cosmetic work? Does the practice hard-sell expensive services or does it explain the pluses and minuses of each option and offer a no-obligation consultation? Does the practice assure you they have a variety of ways to make the procedure you need relatively painless? Are its hours convenient?

6 Connect on Social Media

Visit the Facebook pages—the personal one for the dentist (which should give you an idea of his/her interests outside the office, hobbies, favorite sports teams, nonprofits supported, etc.), as well as the fan page for the practice. Is there regular interaction between friends and patients and the doctor? Post a question and see how long it takes to receive an answer. If the practice is on LinkedIn, you can check out the exchange between dental professionals. You can also see how responsive the office staff and dentist are by using Denteractive's text messaging and video tools, which will also help you decide whether you feel a personal connection and confidence they will help you.



7 Visit the Office

If you've narrowed the list to a couple of possibilities, try to visit each practice. You can see whether the waiting room is clean and comfortable, whether the staff seems too busy to talk with you, and whether they can provide specific answers or are vague about how they can help. Ask how many cases like yours they've handled in the past year and look at before and after photos of the dentist's own work (not stock photos from a vendor). Do they use digital x-rays (much safer than the old film type) and do the dentist and staff use gloves and masks while doing procedures? Ask whether they accept your dental insurance (though you should be willing to pay more if your oral health is at risk) and what credit plans they offer. Finally, find out what their policy is if you have an after-hours dental emergency.

8 Study the Specialists They Prefer

If you know you have a complicated case (perhaps advanced gum disease that requires a periodontist or a jaw imperfection that requires an oral surgeon), you should be referred to a specialist. Ask who they recommend for your type of case and then check out their reviews. If they claim not to need specialists, leave immediately!

9 Ask What Dental Lab They Use

Perhaps the most overlooked factor in getting the dental results you want is the dental lab. A lab has special equipment and highly-trained technicians who can make everything from a denture that is a perfect fit for you to a crown over an implant that has a color that is an exact match to your natural teeth. But some dentists who are more concerned about getting a rock bottom price than giving their patients the best quality will send the work overseas, where they have little control over the result. If you are going to have extensive work done, you may even want to visit the lab to talk to the master ceramist who would supervise your case.



Denteractive™ empowers you to effectively engage with local dentists via text messaging, file sharing, and live audio/video conferencing.

WHAT WE DO...

Our goal is to help patients and dentists find their match. We do this through our interactive and HIPPA-compliant platform that allows to securely share personal information with your dentist.

HOW WE DO IT...

We thrive in utilizing cutting edge technology to connect members with distinguished dental physicians. Our platform allows them to interact one-on-one, gain dental and patient insights, and make appointments for visits.

WHY WE DO IT...

The answer is simple: You. We know how challenging it is to find a quality dentist-patient connection through traditional search options. We seek to provide you with immediate and transparent access to high quality dental care.

Find your ideal dentist on Denteractive.com