

1. What is the natural level?
What is the percentage of gray hair?
2. What is the level and tone of the previously colored hair?
3. What is the client's desired level and tone?
4. Will contributing pigments (undertones) be revealed?
5. What haircolors should be mixed to get the desired result?

Refer to this additional formulation checklist to cover more details (**Figure 16-27**).

Think of hair color as a recipe, which begins with a list of ingredients. Then you check what ingredients you already have (the hair's current color and condition) before purchasing what you don't have (the color and treatment needed). The difference in professional color and at home color is the formulation for predictable results. You cannot simply select a color and apply it hoping for the color on the package.

FORMULATION CHECKLIST

Do a complete hair analysis, including:

Level and tone – scalp area, mid-shaft, ends _____

Gray percentage _____

Texture and porosity _____

Basic overall hair condition _____

Color selection _____

Type of product to be used to create result _____

Need for lightening or color deposit _____

Number of levels of lift required _____

Volume of developer to be used _____

Undertones present _____

Filler before color service _____

Desired tone _____

Undesirable tones _____

Mixing proportions _____

Application method _____

Color process length _____

Fig. 16-27 Formulation checklist.

? Did You Know?

*Most haircoloring mistakes happen by not performing a strand test before a haircolor service. Always schedule enough time to perform a strand test that includes mixing a small amount of the formula you are planning to use on a hair strand separated by a foil to ensure it does not bleed on other areas of the hair. Process it the same way as your planned formula. Frequently check the test strand to ensure it is processing as you anticipated. Remove the haircolor with a damp towel. If the test strand meets your approval, proceed with your haircolor application. (For detailed information, go to **Procedure 16-1, Preliminary Patch Test and Strand Test**, p. 663.)*

