In staging area, preprocessing and cleaning of data is done, such as:

- Removing unnecessary records
- Removing data that is incorrect according to business rules
- Removing duplicate data
- Data normalization, transformation or any necessary change in data
- Integration of data from different sources
- SA can also act as backup, specially when source is very big

When dealing with small tables, data is truncated and loaded entirely from source.

When dealing with big tables, data is loaded incrementally.