

Processing Quick Card

Scope: dehydration -> clearing -> paraffin infiltration.

Dehydration: graded alcohols (70 -> 80 -> 95 -> 100). Prevent water carryover to clearing.

Clearing: xylene or substitutes (aliphatic/limonene). Must be miscible with alcohol and paraffin.

Infiltration: paraffin (typical MP 56-60 deg C). Avoid overheating; use vacuum as needed.

Carryover control: use two 100% alcohols and two clearants; rotate/refresh regularly.

Tissue notes: fatty -> extend clearing or use stronger clearant; dense/calcified -> longer dehydration.

Common artifacts: brittle (over-dehydration); soft/spongy blocks (under-dehydration/clearing); opacity in paraffin (water carryover).