

Troubleshooting One-Pager

Soft/spongy block: incomplete dehydration or clearing. Action: repeat from 95% alcohol; extend xylene; reinfiltrate paraffin.

Brittle/shrunken tissue: over-dehydration or over-clearing. Action: shorten times; verify processor temps; consider isopropanol.

Opaque paraffin around tissue: water carryover. Action: ensure two 100% alcohols; check reagent water content; refresh.

Floaters/contamination: dirty reagents/cassettes. Action: clean baskets; enforce rotation and filtration; document changes.

Uneven infiltration: cassette overcrowding or variable thickness. Action: re-gross bulky pieces; single-layer loading.