

Decalcification

Process of removing lime salts or calcium salts from bone

Makes bone **flexible** and **easy to cut**

Adjusts the hard substance of bones to the softness of paraffin embedding medium.

Specimen: Bone, Teeth. Calcified Tumors, Calcified Heart Valves

Nitric Acid

Purpose of Decalcification

Facilitate cutting of bone

Remove bone dust and cellular debris

Factors Affecting Decalcification

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Size and thickness of specimen | Dense Bone: 2-5 cm Soft Bones: 4-6 cm |
|--------------------------------|--|

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Compactness and Density of Bone | Ideal time: 24-48 hrs Very Dense: =>14 days |
|---------------------------------|--|

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|-----------------------------------|------|
| Concentration and Amount of Fluid | 20:1 |
|-----------------------------------|------|

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|-------------|------------------|
| Temperature | Room Temperature |
|-------------|------------------|

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|-----------|----------------------------|
| Agitation | Stirring from time to time |
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