

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
PHYSICAL/OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROCEDURE MANUAL  
CLEANING PARAFFIN BATH**

=====

**Effective Date:** July, 1984

**Policy No:** 5200-5.006/5300-5.006

**Cross Referenced:**

**Origin:** Physical/Occupational Therapy

**Reviewed Date:** 09/12

**Authority:** Therapy Services Manager

**Revised Date:**

**Page:** 1 of 1

---

**POLICY**

The paraffin bath is cleaned at least every three months and monthly if used frequently. An indication would be cloudy paraffin when in liquid state with deposits in the base of the tank.

**PROCEDURE**

If paraffin is used minimally during 3 month period a partial cleaning is done.

1. Unplug
2. While warm but gelling state, separate from sides of container.
3. Tip semi-gelled block out of container.
4. Cut off approximately 2 inches of sediment base
5. Return remaining, clean block into container and add fresh wax blocks.

If paraffin is ready to be completely discarded. An indication would be cloudy paraffin when in liquid state with deposits in the base of the tank.

1. Unplug and allow paraffin to cool down without solidifying.
2. Pour entire contents out of container into receptacle.
3. Wipe remainder out with paper towels.
4. Tank is then scoured with cleaning pad and alcohol rinse.
5. After it is dry, clean/fresh paraffin is added into tank. Re-plug and leave heating several hours (overnight) to allow new paraffin to melt satisfactorily.