



Clinical Embalming Procedures / Chemicals

Steps taken when embalming clinical cadavers does not differ a great deal from the steps taken by a funeral home embalmer. To begin, the embalmer employs the universal safety precautions for handling the remains: disposable gloves, fitted respirator, etc. Once the remains are on the embalming table, the body is cleaned and disaffected before mixing a pre-injection solution made of 150 grams of potassium acetate, 500ml of kosher food grade glycerin and 2.5L of hot tap water.

Generally, the right femoral artery is utilized for the injection, with the accompanying vein for drainage. If there is a pathology preventing its use, the left femoral or either brachial artery maybe employed for this purpose. The mixture is injected using a low amount of pressure and rate of flow to aid clearing a path for the embalming solution. During this time the embalming solution is mixed using the following: 2 bottles (236.5ml/bottle) of Hydrol B-4 Body Conditioner, 500ml of Dettol, 110ml of water corrective Rectifiant, 5ml of Phenol mixed with 3L of hot tap water. This mixture is the standard solution that we use for cadavers up to 150 lbs. After this, adjustments are made to mixture at the discretion of the embalmer starting with increments of half a bottle B-4, 250ml of Dettol, and 55 ml of Rectifiant.

After the embalming, the cadaver is washed and ready to be placed into a pouch. The cadaver is wrapped in the cloths soaked in a preservation fluid made from a mixture of 4L 95% Ethanol, 570ml Phenol, and 10L of Glycerine mixed into roughly 30L of hot water.

Hydrol Funeral Supply Company B-4: Formaldehyde index of 6%, which is greatly weakened by the water and co-injection, other ingredients stated on the OSHA form are methanol, boric acid, diethanolamine, sodium sulfate, trisodium EDTA, and glycerine

Dodge Chemical Company Rectifiant: Active ingredient is propylene glycol

Dettol: Primary ingredient is chloroxylenol along with isopropanol and castor oil.

For more information please contact the [Dalhousie Human Donation Program](#)