



Placenta Handling Process (Before Encapsulation)

1. Receipt & Identification

- The placenta is received in a sealed, labeled container or bag.
- It is immediately labeled with the **mother's full name**, date of birth, and date/time of birth (if not already).
- All identification is **verified and documented**.
- Labeling stays with the placenta throughout the entire process for proper tracking.

2. Storage & Temperature Control

- If not processed immediately, the placenta must be **refrigerated within 2–4 hours of birth**.
- If not used within **3–4 days**, it should be **frozen** and kept at or below 0°F (-18°C).
- Once ready to prepare, a frozen placenta must be **thawed in a refrigerator** (never at room temperature).

3. Sanitation Protocol

- All work surfaces, tools, and equipment are thoroughly **cleaned and disinfected** before and after use.
- Gloves, masks, and protective gear are worn at all times.
- A dedicated, sanitized space is used for placenta preparation (not shared with food prep).

4. Initial Rinse & Inspection

- The placenta is **gently rinsed** under cool running water to remove blood clots and debris.
- The membranes and umbilical cord are inspected and, if needed, trimmed.
- Any signs of infection, abnormality, or spoilage are documented — processing is discontinued if unsafe.

5. Vein Trimming & Draining

- Major veins are carefully **cut or opened** to allow any remaining blood to drain.
- This helps reduce bacteria risk and improves final product quality.

6. Keepsake Removal (Optional)

- If the client has requested a keepsake (e.g., **umbilical cord heart, placenta print**), this is done at this stage.
- Keepsakes are prepared and set aside before further processing.

7. Documentation

- A full **chain-of-custody and preparation log** is maintained, noting:
 - Time of receipt
 - Storage method
 - Time and date of processing
 - Cleaning steps
 - Any observations or deviations