



Coffin

A mummy mask was placed over the face of the wrapped body and then the body was put inside one or more wooden coffins. Then the inner coffin was placed in the outer coffin.

This process was very expensive so over 99% of the population were buried in the sand to become natural sand dried mummies.



Clean

The body was taken to a place called the Beautiful House. It wasn't as beautiful as the name suggests! The body was cleansed with palm wine and rinsed with water from the River Nile



Brain

The brain wasn't thought to be important! A long hook was pushed up through the nose to smash the brain to pieces, then either pull it out or lift the body so the liquefied brain would drain out through the nose. This prevented them having to damage the head or the skull.



Organs

A cut was made on the left side of the body and the organs removed to stop the body decomposing. The liver, lungs, intestines and stomach were washed, dried in natron and either wrapped in cloth to place in the body later or stored in canopic jars. The heart, responsible for intelligence and emotion, was left in the body as it was needed in the afterlife.



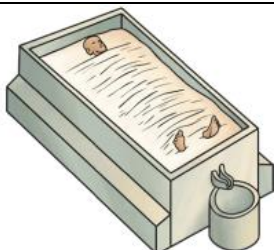
Stuff

Unless they were put in canopic jars, the dried organs would be replaced, or the body filled with sawdust, rags or leaves so it kept its shape.



Wrap

The body was now wrapped in strips of linen, hundreds of metres of it, up to twenty layers thick. This was an elaborate process. Between the layers of linen they would place amulets, which would protect the dead person in the afterlife. As well as amulets, inscribed pieces of papyrus were placed between the layers. Words from the book of the dead were placed between the hands.



Dry

75% of the body is water. Wet things rot very quickly so the body was dried inside and out with natron. Natron absorbed the moisture but it could take 40-50 days.