

Why bases have to be in excess when preparing salts?

Most of bases (or corresponding basic anhydrides) are solid compounds, which are badly soluble in water, while most of acids are liquid and miscible with water. When we use an excess of solid base, liquid acid fully reacts with it and we can easily separate the unreacted base from the obtained solution of salt by filtering. And if acid will be in excess, we couldn't separate it from the solution so easily.

Also, when polybasic acid is in excess, it has a bigger tendency of forming the acid salt, than the tendency of the base in excess to form the basic salt. It is important when we want to obtain a neutral salt.