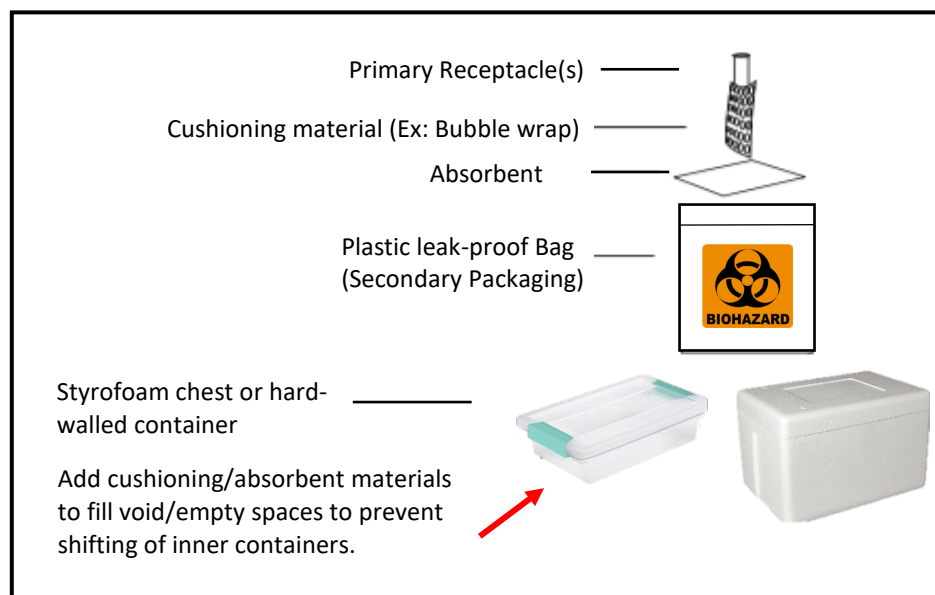




## Transporting Biological Specimens

Contact EHS, [EHS-hazmatshipping@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:EHS-hazmatshipping@austin.utexas.edu), PRIOR to transporting any materials.

- A. Biological samples:
- Prepare for transport using the triple packaging method (figure 1).
  - Place samples into leak-proof primary containers (vials, tubes, etc.) with positive closure (screw-on, snap-on, or push-on) and properly labeled.
  - Lids/caps should be secured with tape or parafilm.
  - Containers/vials should then be placed into a leak-proof secondary container (plastic bag sealed with tape or in a sealable ziplock bag) with absorbent materials in sufficient quantity to absorb the entire contents.
  - Apply a biohazard label on the outside of the secondary container.
  - The samples should then be placed into an outer container (plastic or hard-walled) with a secure lid and wipe the outside container with appropriate disinfectant.




**Figure 1. Triple Packaging Method**

- B. Dry Ice:
- Complete dry ice shipping (OH601) training.
  - The container (insulated chest) must be designed and constructed to permit the release of carbon dioxide gas in order to prevent a buildup of pressure that could rupture the container.
  - Only use a minimum amount of dry ice to keep the samples frozen.
- C. Use of a personal vehicle is prohibited. UT-owned vehicles should be used for transporting hazardous materials (i.e. biological, chemical, sharps).
- DO NOT** transport biological materials using public transportation (i.e. bus, taxi, etc.)



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## Environmental Health & Safety

- D. All hazardous materials should be secured in the trunk or the cargo area of the vehicle.
- E. **HAVE A DETAILED LIST OF WHAT IS BEING TRANSPORTED IN THE PACKAGING AVAILABLE ON YOUR PERSON.**
- F. Use cold packs or wet ice for temperature-sensitive samples for short-term transfers.
  - i. If using wet ice double bag to prevent leakage.
- G. If dry ice must be used and no trunk is available have the windows open/cracked (at all times while in transit) to allow fresh air into the car.
  - i. Most vehicle air conditioning controls are equipped with a recirculation button (  ) which recirculates air in the car and does not bring in fresh air. Ensure that this feature is turned off.
- H. Biohazardous waste
  - i. Needles shall not be bent or recapped after use and will be promptly disposed of into an approved rigid sharps container (figure 2).
  - ii. All sharps Containers should be closed before transporting.
  - iii. Containers must be placed in a leak-proof secondary container with sufficient absorbent material to absorb contents and prevent shifting during transport.
  - iv. All sharps containers that become  $\frac{3}{4}$  full will be submitted to EHS for disposal.



*Figure 2. Sharps containers*

- I. Hazardous materials must be under direct control/secured and never left unattended while in transit. Secure the hazardous materials immediately once arriving at the usage or storage location.
- J. Take care when moving the materials through public places or high-traffic areas.
- K. Make sure to have a spill kit of gloves/cryo gloves, lab coat, eyewear, disinfectant, and absorbent material during transport to clean up any spills that may occur.

**Contact EHS at (512) 471-3511 if assistance is needed or to report an injury.**