



## Quick Guide to Triple Packaging

Use a triple packaging system to package all hazardous materials. For questions, contact EHS through [EHS\\_ResearchTransport@harvard.edu](mailto:EHS_ResearchTransport@harvard.edu).

Elements in a triple packaging system:

1. **Primary containment:** Contains the sample, e.g., screwcap tubes, etc. and needs to be sealable and leakproof.
2. **Secondary containment:** Used to contain leaks/protect the primary receptacle. It is capable of withstanding, without leakage, an internal pressure of 95 kPa (0.95 bar). The secondary packaging can be rigid (a canister with screw-on cap) or flexible (a two-pocket tray-sealed specimen bag, being the second one designed in order to protect information). For liquid specimens, absorbent material must be in a quantity sufficient to absorb the contents of the primary receptacle and to wrap every primary receptacle, so they are individually separated. Absorbent material should be placed between the primary and secondary layers.
3. **Tertiary shipping container:** A rigid cardboard box or other designated shipping container. Styrofoam containers are NOT acceptable shipping containers.

