



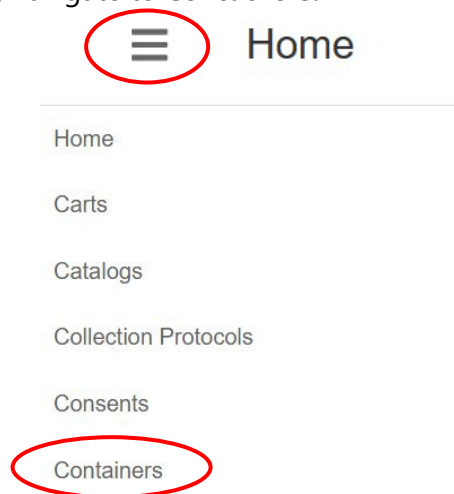
Configure Storage Containers in OpenSpecimen

In OpenSpecimen, a Storage Container represents a physical or virtual location where specimens are stored. These containers help organise and track specimens within biorepositories, labs, or cold storage.

By following these steps, you can effectively configure storage containers in OpenSpecimen.

Create a Container

1. From the Home Menu, navigate to **Containers**.




2. Click  .

3. Choose whether to create a **Container Hierarchy** (when you want to create a multi-level, organised structure for storage, e.g. freezer, rack, etc.) or a **Single Container** (when you need to create an individual container without the need for a complex hierarchy).


Option 1: Create Container Hierarchy

If selecting the '**Container Hierarchy**' option:

1. Click on **Container Hierarchy**.
2. Select the relevant **Type** of container from the drop-down menu (e.g., "-80 Freezer").
3. Fill in the mandatory details, including:
 - **No. of containers:** Specify how many containers to create.
 - **Used for:** Indicate if it's for storage or temporary use.
 - **Site:** The physical site of the container.
 - **Approximate Capacity:** Can be specified or calculated automatically.
 - **Store Specimens:** Specify if the container will store specimens directly.
4. Click  to finalise.

Option 2: Create Single Container

If selecting the '**Single Container**' option:

1. Click on **Single Container**.
2. Enter all the necessary details, including:
 - **Used for:** Indicate storage type.
 - **Unique name:** An auto-generated unique label; you can provide your custom name if needed.
 - **Site:** The physical site of this container.
 - **Dimension:** Enter size in terms of rows and columns.
 - **Position Labelling:** Choose how positions will be displayed (e.g., Linear or Row & Column).
3. Click  to finalise.

Additional Options

- **Creating Multiple Containers:** You can create multiple containers at once by selecting 'Multiple Containers' and following similar steps as above.

- **Dimensionless Containers:** There are container types that can be selected for containers with no fixed size (such as a Ziplock bag or large tub), otherwise a type can be selected and then the dimensionless option chosen when prompted.

Dimensionless?

Yes No

Important Considerations

- Ensure that you set the parent-child relationships appropriately when creating hierarchies to maintain organised storage systems.
- You can edit existing containers later to update their specifications or restrictions.
- OpenSpecimen allows you to export existing container structures, modify them to suit your specimen collection needs, and then bulk import them back into the system. This feature helps streamline setup by letting you replicate and reuse container configurations, avoiding the need to manually create each container individually.
For detailed instructions on how to perform this process, refer to the '*Bulk Load Your Specimen Data*' User Guide and the accompanying video tutorial.