

DECOMPOSITION RATES OF MARINE DEBRIS



Glass Bottle 1 million years

Monofilament fishing line 600 years

Plastic beverage bottles 450 years

Disposable diapers 450 years



Aluminum can 80-200 years

Foamed plastic buoy 80 years

Rubber boat sole 50-80 years

Foamed plastic cup 50 years



Tin can 50 years

Leather 50 years

Nylon Fabric 30-40 years

Plastic film canister 20-30 years

Plastic Bag 10-20 years



Cigarette filter 1-50 years

Wool sock 1-5 years

Plywood 1-3 years



Waxed milk carton 3 months

Apple core 2 months

Newspaper 6 weeks



Orange or banana peel 2-5 weeks

Paper towel 2-4 weeks

From: "Pocket Guide to Marine Debris," The Ocean Conservancy, 2004.
Sources: U.S National Park Service; Mote Marine Lab, FL and "Garbage In, Garbage Out"