

HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR ITEMS TO DECOMPOSE

Paper & banana peel - 2 to 7 months

Cotton rags – 1 to 5 months

Cardboard – 2 months

Orange peels – 6 months

Rope – 3 to 14 months

Wool socks – 1 to 5 years

Milk cartons – 5 years

Filter tip cigarettes – 10 to 12 years

Leather shoes – 24 to 50 years

Nylon fabric – 30 to 40 years

Plastic containers – 50 to 60 years

Disposable diapers – 75 to 500 years (depending on kind)

Tin cans – 100 years

Aluminum cans – 200 to 500 years

Styrofoam – over 1 million years

(from the Wichita Eagle, April 17, 2009 , and Jeannette Carter)