

APPROXIMATE RATES OF DECAY

ORGANIC

Orange and banana peels	2 - 5 weeks
School papers and newspaper	4 - 6 weeks
Cardboard box	4 - 5 months
Cotton shirt	1 - 5 months
Paper handkerchief	3 - 6 months
Woollen sock	1 year
Paper page	1 month
Woody materials such as wood-chips, branches and twigs	2 years

INORGANIC

Tin cans	100 years
Aluminium cans	200 - 400 years
Plastic bottles and jugs	700 years
Plastic bags and disposable diapers	10 - 20 years
Thin plastic used as wrapping biscuits, crisps etc.	5 years
Plastic rings which keep cans together	100 years
Plastic toy	450 - 1,000 years
Polystyrene (burger boxes)	Possibly never
Chewing gum	5 years
Cigarette filters	1 - 2 years
Glass (easy to recycle)	4,000 years to break down to its natural components
Other Glass bottles and jars	1,000,000 years
Scrap metal	50 years

ORGANIC / INORGANIC MIX

Leather shoe	50 years (because of the rubber sole)
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