

**How Long 'Till It's Gone?**  
 Guess how long items take to break down!  
**Answer Key**

Item	Length of time to breakdown	Source
Paper Towel	2 - 4 weeks	<a href="http://Stacker.com">Stacker.com</a>
Banana peel	3 - 4 weeks	<a href="http://ScienceLearn">ScienceLearn</a>
Paper bag	2 - 5 months	<a href="http://ScienceLearn">ScienceLearn</a>
Cotton rag	3 months	<a href="http://Her Circle">Her Circle</a>
Cardboard lunchroom tray	1 year	<a href="http://Composting Hub">Composting Hub</a>
Cardboard box	1 year	<a href="http://Composting Hub">Composting Hub</a>
Wool sock	1 - 5 years	<a href="http://ScienceLearn">ScienceLearn</a>
Milk carton	5 years	<a href="http://ScienceLearn">ScienceLearn</a>
Cigarette butt	10 years	<a href="http://Longwood">Longwood</a>
Leather shoes	35 - 50 years	<a href="http://ScienceLearn">ScienceLearn</a>
Plastic bag	10 - 100 years	<a href="http://Business Ethics">Business Ethics</a>
Tin can (soup or vegetable can)	50 - 100 years	<a href="http://ScienceLearn">ScienceLearn</a>
Plastic Straw	200 years	<a href="http://WWF">WWF</a>
Aluminum can (soda can)	200 - 500 years	<a href="http://Muncie Sanitary District">Muncie Sanitary District</a>
Disposable diaper	250 - 500 years	<a href="http://Stacker.com">Stacker.com</a>
Plastic water bottle	450 years	<a href="http://WWF">WWF</a>
Plastic toothbrush	500 years	<a href="http://Statistica">Statistica</a>
Plastic fork	up to 1000 years	<a href="http://Plastic Pollution Coalition">Plastic Pollution Coalition</a>
Styrofoam cup	1000 - forever	<a href="http://ScienceLearn">ScienceLearn</a>
Glass bottle	1 million years	<a href="http://ScienceLearn">ScienceLearn</a>
Potato Chip bag	forever	<a href="http://ScienceLearn">ScienceLearn</a>