

How long does trash last?

Semi-interactive, Educational

Materials:

- Board Cover Paper
- Tape or glue
- Construction Paper
- Various pieces of sanitary trash
(use a printed picture if the item is too heavy or dirty)
- Printed Materials

Instructions:

- Gather 8-15 pieces of trash.
- Cover the board with background paper.
- Cut out the info cards and fold each card in half.
- Attach peices of trash to the bulletin board.
- Glue folded info card under the corresponding piece of trash.
- Allow students time to explore the board by flipping open the info cards

Banana
Peel

Cotton Rag

3 to 4 weeks

5 months

Paper Bag

Cigarette Butt

1 month

2 to 5 years

Aluminum Can

Plastic Bottle

200 to 500 years

450 years

Waxed Milk
Carton

Plastic Bag

5 years

10 to 20 years

Wool Sock

Apple Core

1 to 5 years

2 months

Styrofoam Cup

Glass Bottle

Unknown.
Forever?

Unknown.
Forever?

Paper Towel

6 Pack Ring

2-4 weeks

400 to 500 years

Tin Soup Can

Nylon Fabric

80 years

40 years

Paper Bag

Rubber Shoe Sole

1 month

50-80 years

Plastic bag

10-20 years

* Decomposition times are based on
observed deterioration of like materials.
Each time given is a "best scientific
estimate" of how long it will last.

Americans represent 5%
of the world's population,
but generate 30% of the
world's garbage.

The average person
produces 30 lbs of garbage
in just 1 week!

Trash lasts too long!
Reuse or recycle to give
your trash a new life

