



DUST TO DUST?

Can you correctly match these common litter items to their decomposition times in the table on the next page?

Tin Can

Waxed Milk Carton

Leather

Chewing Gum

Monofilament Fishing Line

Paper Towel

Plastic Beverage Bottle

Rubber Boot Sole

Plywood

Nylon Fabric

Disposable Nappy

Apple Core

Glass Bottle

Banana Peel

Aluminium Can

Plastic Buoy

Styrofoam Cup

Plastic Bag

Wool Sock

Cigarette End

Newspaper



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When the items of rubbish listed are thrown away, how long does it take for them to biodegrade? Try matching each item to how long you think it takes to decompose back into the earth? *Any surprises?*

	2 - 4 weeks
	6 weeks
	2 months
	3 months
	up to 2 years
	1 - 3 years
	1 - 5 years
	1 - 5 years
	10 - 20 years
	30 - 40 years
	50 years
	50 years
	50 years
	50 - 80 years
	80 years
	80 - 200 years
	450 years
	450 years
	600 years
	1 million years
	1 million years



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Answers

Paper towel	2 - 4 weeks
Newspaper	6 weeks
Apple core	2 months
Waxed Mil Carton	3 months
Banana Peel	up to 2 years
Plywood	1 - 3 years
Cigarette Ends	1 - 5 years
Wool Sock	1 - 5 years
Plastic Bag	10 - 20 years
Nylon Fabric	30 - 40 years
Styrofoam Cups	50 years
Tin Cans	50 years
Leather	50 years
Rubber Boot Sole	50 - 80 years
Plastic Buoy	80 years
Aluminium Can	80 - 200 years
Disposable Nappies	450 years
Plastic Beverage Bottles	450 years
Monofilament Fishing Line	600 years
Glass Bottle	1 million years
Chewing Gum	1 million years