



How long do items take to break down in the environment?

Listed below are items which are discarded regularly.

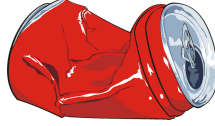
Draw a line from each item - to the box which you think is the time in which it takes for the item to break down.



Vegetables



Tree leaves



Aluminium Cans

5 days
-
1 month

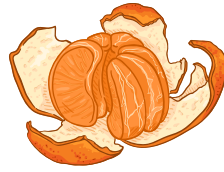
2-5
months



Paper



Styrofoam cups



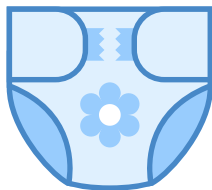
Orange peel

6
months

1 year



Leather shoes



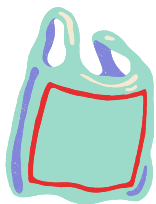
Disposable nappy



Cotton T shirt

1 - 5
years

5 years



Plastic bags



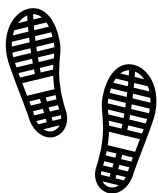
Glass bottles



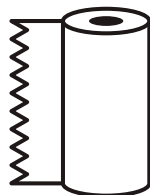
Plastic coated paper
milk cartons

25 - 40
years

50 - 80
years



Rubber boot
sole



Paper towels



Wool Socks

80 - 200
years

450
years

500
years
-
forever

1 million
years

Interesting fact:

Even food waste and paper will not biodegrade when put into landfill sites because the artificial landfill environment lacks the light, water and bacterial activity required for the decay process to begin.

How long do items take to break down in the environment?

Answers

5 days - 1 month: Vegetables, Paper towels

2 - 5 months: Paper

6 months: Orange peel, Cotton T shirt

1 year: Tree leaves

1 - 5 years: Wool Socks

5 years: Plastic coated paper milk cartons

25 - 40 years: Leather shoes

50 - 80 years: Rubber boot sole

80 - 200 years: Aluminium cans

450 years: Disposable nappy

500 years to forever: Styrofoam cups, Plastic bags

1 million years: Glass bottles