

Roadside Litter

Decomposition Chart for litter*

(Source: California Waste Mgmt Bulletin)

Banana/orange Peel	2-5 weeks
Cotton rag	1-5 months
Cigarette butt	1-5 years
Wool clothing	1-5 years
Plastic-coated paper	5 years
Plastic bag	10-20 years
Painted wooden stake	13 years
Plastic film container	20-30 years
Nylon fabric	30-40 years
Leather	up to 50 years
Rubber boot sole	50-80 years
Aluminum can	200-500 years
Plastic 6-pack cover	450 years
Glass bottle	l million years

Others: (various sources)

Traffic Ticket 2-4 weeks 3-14 months Rope Bamboo pole 1-3 years 100 years Tin can Newspaper 3-6 months 4-8 months Carry-out food bag 1-3 weeks Napkins Plastic beverage containers 100 years 3-9 months Carry-out tray

^{*} Decomposition depends on weather and site conditions: warm, wet conditions enhance decomposition, as does exposure to sunlight and oxygen. Material sheltered from weather and sunlight requires increased time to decompose.