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concerned students at
Georgian Court

Water Closet Reader



How long does it take to decompose?!

- ◇ Decomposition (rotting) is the process by which organic substances are broken down into simpler forms of matter
- ◇ Most containers and bottles are made up of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) which is a nearly indestructible plastic.
- ◇ Petroleum-based plastics, like PET, do not decompose the same way organic material does which is why these types of containers take FOREVER to biodegrade.
- ◇ Organic materials such as wood, grass, and food scraps undergo a process known as biodegradation which means that they are transformed by bacteria in the soil into other useful compounds.
- ◇ Below are some mind boggling stats on just how long it takes for some items to decompose. We hope this will remind you of how important it is to recycle!

Paper towels and Banana peels-2-4 weeks

Paper bags- 1 month

Newspaper- 1.5 months

Apple cores and cardboard- 2 months

Orange peels- 6 months

Plywood- 1-3 years (THINK OF HURRICANE SANDY)

Wool socks- 1-5 years

Milk cartons- 5 years

Cigarette Butts- 10-12 years

Leather shoes- 25-40 years

Tinned steel cans and foamed plastic cups- 50 years

Rubber boot soles and plastic containers- 50- 80 years

Aluminum cans-200-500 years

Plastic Bottles- 450 years

Disposable diapers- 550 years

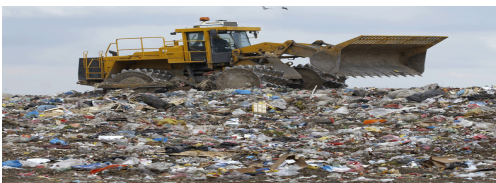
Monofilament fishing line- 600 years

Plastic Bags- 200-1000 years

Plastic Jug- 1 million years

Glass- 1-2 million years

Styrofoam- 1+ million years



If you would like to get involved in any of the sustainability efforts on campus, please contact Dr. Louise Wootton, Director of Sustainability x 2349 or woottonL@georgian.edu