

Southern Region, B.S.A.
Yachting Initiative
Program Elements

Time Garbage Takes to Decompose in the Environment

Handout

(Information Source: U.S. National Park Service; Mote Marine Lab, Sarasota, Florida)

Glass Bottle	1 million years
Monofilament Fishing Line	600 years
Plastic Beverage Bottles	450 years
Disposable Diapers	450 years
Aluminum Can	80-200 years
Foamed Plastic Buoy	80 years
Rubber-Boot Sole	50-80 years
Foamed Plastic Cubs	50 years
Tin Cans	50 years
Leather	50 years
Nylon Fabric	30-40 years
Plastic Film Container	20-30 years
Plastic Bag	10-20 years
Cigarette Butt	1-5 years
Wool Sock	1-5 years
Plywood	1-3 years
Waxed Milk Carton	3 months
Apple Core	2 months
Newspaper	6 weeks
Orange or Banana Peel	2-5 weeks
Paper Towel	2-4 weeks