

# TRASH TIMELINE

How long does it take for some common items to biodegrade or decompose?

Do your best to fill in the trash timeline. Some of the answers might surprise you!

Remember that Maryland State Parks are "Trash Free Parks" which means you should plan take your trash home with you. Litter left behind can harm wildlife, in addition to being messy and smelly!



- **LESS THAN 1 YEAR**  
Newspaper, paper towels, tissues
- **UP TO 2 YEARS** \_ A \_ \_ N \_ P \_ \_ L
- **1- 5 YEARS**  
Cigarette butts, leather, wool
- **UP TO 5 YEARS**  
C \_ \_ W \_ N \_ \_ U \_
- **5 YEARS OR MORE**  
Plastic coated paper, food wrappers, waxed containers
- **10-20 YEARS (OR MORE)**  
\_ L \_ S \_ \_ C B \_ \_ S
- **20-30 YEARS (OR MORE)**  
Plastic containers, plastic bottle caps
- **30-40 YEARS**  
Nylon fabrics
- **50 YEARS**  
Steel or tin cans
- **80-100 YEARS** A \_ U \_ \_ \_ U \_ C \_ \_
- **100 YEARS**  
Plastic 6-pack holder
- **450 YEARS**  
\_ I \_ P \_ \_ A \_ \_ \_ D \_ A \_ E \_ \_
- **600 YEARS**  
Monofilament fishing line
- **ONE MILLION YEARS**  
\_ \_ A S \_
- **STUDIES VARY**  
Styrofoam

**BONUS ACTIVITY**  
 Design a poster to help the Maryland Park Service spread the word about the importance of "Trash Free Parks"! Send us a copy of your poster and you might just see it on a bulletin board at a Maryland State Park.  
 Email: [melissa.boyle@maryland.gov](mailto:melissa.boyle@maryland.gov)

WANT TO HELP? TRY **PLOGGING!**

*Plogging* is a combination of jogging with picking up litter (Swedish: plocka upp). It started as an organized activity in Sweden around 2016 and spread to other countries in 2018, following increased concern about plastic pollution. (Source: Wikipedia)