

# HOW LONG UNTIL IT'S GONE?

## Top 10 Trash Found in the Ocean & Their Estimated Decomposition Rates



**1**

**Cigarette Butts**  
1-5 YEARS



**3**

**Plastic Bottles**  
450 YEARS



**5**

**Plastic Caps/Lids**  
500+ YEARS



**7**

**Straws/Stirrers**  
Up to 200 YEARS



**6**

**Cup/Plates/Cutlery**  
500+ YEARS



**2**

**Food Wrappers  
Containers**  
400 YEARS



**4**

**Plastic Bags**  
10-20 YEARS



**8**

**Glass**  
Undetermined



**9**

**Cans**  
200 YEARS



**10**

**Paper Bags**  
6 WEEKS

Printing: Paid for by the taxpayers of the City and County of Honolulu under the direction of Department of Facility Maintenance's Storm Water Quality Branch.  
Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, Woods Hole Sea Grant, and Ocean Conservancy.  
Decomposition rates refer to separation into simpler compounds (microplastics, etc.) not into basic mineral forms (carbon, hydrogen, etc.).  
Estimated individual item timelines depend on product composition and environmental conditions.

