

Lesson 1: Trash Talk

How Long Will I Last?

The most common path for waste is to go directly to a landfill. A landfill is a structure in the ground specifically designed to collect trash and isolate it safely from the rest of the environment. Some items decompose in landfills but others remain there in the same state indefinitely. Match each waste item in the list on the left to the amount of time each would last in a landfill before returning or decomposing into nature.

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| 1. Banana Peel | a. 10-20 years |
| 2. Candy wrapper | b. 80-100 years |
| 3. Plastic bag | c. Up to 2 years |
| 4. Tuna fish tin can | d. 1,000,000 years |
| 5. Aluminum can | e. 5 years |
| 6. Glass bottle | f. Indefinitely |
| 7. Polystyrene foam | g. 50 years |

Source: www.nps.gov