

Ugly roadside trash lasts a long time.

Roadside litter is more than unsightly. It can last anywhere from months to hundreds of years. Trash needs four main ingredients to decompose, moisture, oxygen, light and heat. Buried in a landfill, trash lasts much longer because it is deprived of light and heat. Roadside trash, exposed to all four elements, decomposes at a faster rate.



Cotton rag,
1 to 5 months



Banana peel,
2 to 5 weeks



Styrofoam,
20 years



Wool socks,
1 to 5 years



Rubber tires,
Never



Piece of rope,
3 to 14 months



Aluminum can,
200 to 500 years



Steel or tin can,
100 years



Glass,
Never



Wax paper cup,
5 years



Cigarette butt,
5 years



Disposable diaper,
300 to 500 years



Bamboo,
1 to 3 years



Wooden chair,
20 to 40 years



Leather purse,
50 years



- ◆ Plastic bag, 20 to 30 years
- ◆ Plastic six-pack ring, 450 years
- ◆ Painted wood stake, 13 years