

# HOW LONG DOES YOUR LITTER LIVE?



Have you ever thought about what happens to your litter?

The way we dispose of our trash impacts our environment and waterways. Learn about the life cycle of some commonly littered items that can cause stormwater pollution.



## CIGARETTE BUTTS

Did you know that cigarette butt filters contain plastic, which can take up to five years to decompose?

Cigarette butts are one of the most commonly littered items found on highways and roadways. Make sure they make their way to a garbage can.



5 years

## PLASTIC BOTTLES

One plastic water bottle can take up to 450 years to decompose. Wow!

As plastic trash makes its way through our waterways, it breaks down into tiny pieces known as microplastics, which can be harmful to marine life. Always remember to recycle.



450 years

## FOOD WRAPPERS

Most food wrappers, including chip bags and candy wrappers, can take anywhere from 10-20 years to decompose.

Always throw your trash in a garbage can.



10-20 years

## ALUMINUM CANS

Did you know that your soda can takes up to 80-200 years to decompose?

Always recycle your cans. When recycled, aluminum cans be used an unlimited number of times!



80-200 years

**Do your part to maintain our storm drains and protect our waterways!**

**LITTER IS PREVENTABLE.**

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