8/26/2015

Litter – trash

How long will it take for litter to disappear? Much of our litter decomposes (breaks down naturally). Decomposition rates vary widely.

Rates depend upon several factors:

1. Air (decomposition is aerobic (with oxygen))

2. Sunlight

3. Moisture

4. abrasion (damage caused by friction)

University of Arizona “Garbage Project”

Study decomposition rates of trash. Dr. William Rathje

Studied commonly disposed of items in modern landfills (newspapers, hot dogs, lettuce, corn)