

Did You Know That

- the average person in the United States produces about 6.5 pounds of trash every day?
- at the rate Americans are generating garbage, 500 new landfills will be needed every year?
- in 1991, the Great Wall of China became the second largest man-made structure in the world? The largest is the Fresh Kills Landfill serving New York City. It is now the highest point on the east coast.
- one third of the paper mills in the United States use recycled waste paper exclusively?
- every three months, Americans throw away enough aluminum to rebuild the nation's commercial air fleet?
- if you throw away two aluminum cans, you waste more energy than is used daily by each of a billion citizens in poorer countries?
- the energy saved from one recycled aluminum can will operate a television for three hours?
- it takes 95% less energy to make aluminum from recycled scrap than from virgin materials?
- making new paper from recycled paper requires 30-50% less energy than making paper from trees and it reduces contributions to air pollution by 95%?
- every ton of recycled office paper saves approximately 380 gallons of oil?
- if Americans recycled just one-tenth of their newspapers we would save 25 million trees a year?
- the energy saved from recycling one glass bottle will light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours?

How long it takes the following to degrade?

A banana peel? 3-4 weeks

A paper bag? 1 month

A cotton rag? 5 months

A piece of wood? 10-15 years

A leather shoe? 40-50 years

A tin can? 80-100 years

An aluminum can? 200-500 years

Disposable diapers? 500-600 years

A plastic jug? 1 million years

P.S. Did you know that Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour?!

Glass bottle? unknown

Styrofoam, like a "clam shell" sandwich container? It will last forever!