

Estimated Life Span of Plastic Products

Note: These figures are estimates, but highlight how long plastics could last. We don't really know how long these things will be around because they haven't been in existence long enough to test. These numbers are based on observed photodegradation rates and extrapolation from them.

Derelict Fishing Gear ~ Tens to Hundreds of Years

Foam Buoy ~ 80 years

Disposable Diaper ~ 450 years

6-pack rings ~ 400 years

Plastic bottle ~ 450 years

Monofilament Fishing line ~ 600 years

Plastic Bag ~ Hundreds of years

Mylar Balloon ~ Hundreds of Years

Cigarette Butts ~ Hundreds of Years

Source: NOAA Fisheries Service. NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Protected Resources Division. (2006). *Marine debris: Impacts in the Gulf of Mexico*. Retrieved from website: [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdf/Marine Debris in GOM.pdf](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdf/Marine%20Debris%20in%20GOM.pdf)