

# How long does it take?



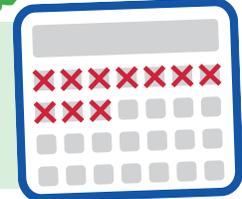
Recyclables can be turned into new, usable products in a matter of weeks, and sometimes just days. But how long do they take to decompose when they end up as landfill or litter instead?



## Glass Bottles

Landfill / Litter:  
**1 million years**

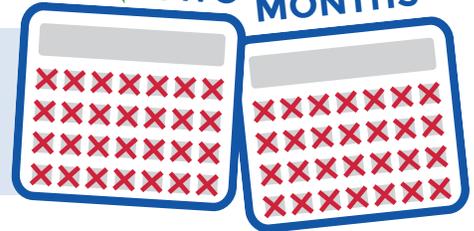
Recycle:  
**6-10 DAYS**



## Aluminum Cans

Landfill / Litter:  
**100 to 500 years**

Recycle:  
**TWO MONTHS**



## Plastic Bottles

Landfill / Litter:  
**100 to 500 years**

Recycle:  
**ONE WEEK**



## Newspapers

Landfill / Litter:  
**2 months to 50 years**

Recycle:  
**ONE WEEK**



## Paper Containers

Landfill / Litter:  
**2 months to 5 years**

Recycle:  
**ONE WEEK**



# Recycling Makes Sense

In Ontario, municipal governments developed, expanded and manage the Blue Box system we use every day. Today, the world's first Blue Box system is also one of the most effective.

Ontario's municipalities are proud of that system, and we're working hard to improve it by investing in innovations that help us all contain costs and recycle more. Together, we're keeping more than 900,000 tonnes of recyclables out of landfills every year, and we're getting better all the time.

## Recycling Tips



### Find out what goes in and what doesn't

The types of materials accepted in Blue Boxes varies across Ontario. Check with your municipality or visit [www.stewardshipontario.ca](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca) to find out what you can recycle and what has to go in the garbage.



### Recycle in every room



Recycling isn't just for the kitchen. Place recycling bins in other areas of the house, such as offices, bedrooms and bathrooms, to capture items like paper, cosmetics containers, toilet paper rolls, etc.

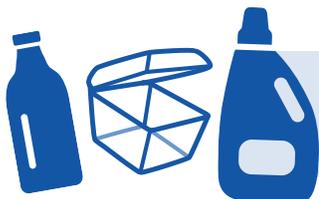
If your community collects organic waste, keep small collection bins in bathrooms and other spots in the home to collect compostable waste like facial tissues.

### Shop smart

Choose products that are made with recycled materials and that are easier and less costly to recycle. For example, polystyrene and multi-layered plastic containers are at least seven times more expensive to recycle than cardboard packaging.



Source: Stewardship Ontario, 2015 Blue Box Fee Calculation Model.



### Rinse recyclable containers

Rinse your containers before you toss them in the recycling bin. Contaminated plastic and glass can't be recycled and often end up in landfill.

### Find new uses or homes for old materials

Look for opportunities to reuse or donate old materials to the many charities that re-sell used goods.

