
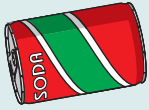


Keep Sidmouth Beach Tidy!




A lot of **litter** ends up on **beaches** in the UK that shouldn't be there – it's a **big danger** to **wildlife**. A group of people based in Sidmouth – **Sidmouth Plastic Warriors** – have had enough of this litter and are **doing something about it**! Sidmouth Plastic Warriors want to keep Sidmouth's beaches **clean and safe** for humans and animals. They, like many other **voluntary beach-cleaning groups** around the world, organise '**big cleans**' (they get together to clean up **waste** from the beach).

Plastic bottles, tin cans, glass... These are all items that Sidmouth Plastic Warriors have found on Sidmouth Beach that can be very **harmful** to wildlife. But just how harmful can they be? Some rubbish left on the beach can seriously harm or even **kill** marine animals. Research the litter materials in the **table below** to find out more.



Litter material	What type of item may it have come from?	Is it recyclable?	How many years does it take to decompose?	What effects can it have on animals?
Broken glass 				
Plastic				
Aluminium 				

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Litter material	What type of item may it have come from?	Is it recyclable?	How many years does it take to decompose?	What effects can it have on animals?
Paper or card 				
Tin				
Fabric 				
Styrofoam				
Orange peel 				

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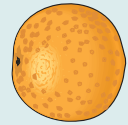
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Litter material	What type of item may it have come from?	Is it recyclable?	How many years does it take to decompose?	What effects can it have on animals?
Broken glass 	e.g. a beer bottle	Yes	1 million years	It could cut them, causing death or severe bleeding. Smaller animals could get stuck in glass bottles or jars too.
Plastic 	e.g. a plastic bag, a plastic drink bottle	Not all, but a lot can be.	Most items take about 450 years. Bags take about 20 years.	They could get tangled or caught in plastic. They might consume plastic that contains toxic chemicals.
Aluminium 	e.g. a fizzy drink can	Yes	250 years	As well as being toxic, aluminium could cut or trap animals. It can be harmful if consumed.

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Answers

Litter material	What type of item may it have come from?	Is it recyclable?	How many years does it take to decompose?	What effects can it have on animals?
Paper or card 	e.g. a box of biscuits	Yes	2-6 weeks in a landfill	While not as harmful as other materials, ink can contain chemicals that harm animals.
Tin	e.g. an empty tin of beans	Yes	50-100 years	This can be sharp and cut an animal. It could be dangerous if eaten.
Fabric 	e.g. a forgotten t-shirt	Yes	Cotton – 5 months Linen – 2 weeks Polyester – 20-200 years	This is less harmful but small animals could get tangled or trapped in fabrics.
Styrofoam	e.g. a tray for chips	Yes, but it's usually not	500 years - forever	If eaten, it could clog animals' digestive systems. It can release harmful chemicals.
Orange peel 	A finished orange	No – but it can be composted or thrown in the bin!	6 months	This is not as harmful as the other materials. However, it might block animals' digestive systems.