

TESTING PROCESS

Week 0 (March 7) – just added, nothing immediate.

Week 1 (March 14)

	SALTWATER	FRESHWATER	RIVER
Plastic 1	Expanded by 1.5 times	Expanded by 1.5 times	Expanded by 1.5 times
Plastic 2	Expanded by 2 times	Expanded by 2 times	Expanded by 2 times
Plastic 3	Expanded, immediately beginning to break	Expanded by 1.5 times	Expanded by 1.5 times
Plastic 4	No change	Expanded by 1.5 times, beginning to disintegrate	Already mostly disintegrated
Plastic 5	Expanded by 1.5 times	Expanded very little	Expanded very little
Plastic 6	Expanded by 1.5 times	Expanded by 1.5 times	Expanded by 1.5 times
Plastic 7	Minimal expansion	Minimal expansion	Minimal expansion
Plastic 8	Absorbed water, increased in size by 2	Absorbed water, thick liquid	Absorbed water, increased in size by 2

Straws/Spoon – no change.

Week 2 (March 21)

	SALTWATER	FRESHWATER	RIVER
Plastic 1	Minor breakage	No change	Began to fragment
Plastic 2	No change	Began breakage **not usually commenting on color but entirely lost its color	No change
Plastic 3	More splitting	Minor splitting	No change
Plastic 4	Minor splitting	Continuing to dissolve, little specks remain	Continued to dissolve, small specks of plastic remain
Plastic 5	No change	Expanded by 1.5 times	Shrunk back to original

		**not usually commenting on color but entirely lost its color	size
Plastic 6	Expanded a little more	Expanded a little bit more, getting thicker	Expanded a little bit more
Plastic 7	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 8	Absorbed more water, jelly like, size increase by 1.5	Goopy liquid but thinner than before	Released some of the absorbed water, goopy

Straws/Spoon – no change.

Week 3 (March 28)

	SALTWATER	FRESHWATER	RIVER
Plastic 1	Thinning out	Thinning out	Fragmenting more, small pieces remain
Plastic 2	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 3	More breakage, visible cracking points	No change	Starting to split a little more than before
Plastic 4	Dissolved very little	Fully dissolved, miniature remnants	Fully disintegrated besides really small remnants (a little bigger than a grain of salt)
Plastic 5	No change	Minor decrease in size	Smaller, breaking off on the ends (straggly)
Plastic 6	No change	Thinning out more	Starting to thin out more
Plastic 7	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 8	Exuded some of absorbed water, decrease in size by 2	Fully liquified	Fully liquified

Straws/Spoon – no change.

Week 4 (April 4)

	SALTWATER	FRESHWATER	RIVER
Plastic 1	Thinning on edges	No change	Fragments even smaller
Plastic 2	No change	Breaking off a little	Expanded a little bit
Plastic 3	Breakage	Minor shrinking	Breaking off a little bit more not too much
Plastic 4	No change	No change, process is complete	No change, process is complete
Plastic 5	No change	No change	Softening, squishy
Plastic 6	No change	No change	Beginning to fragment
Plastic 7	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 8	Stopped absorbing and liquified	No change, process is complete	No change, process is complete

Straws/Spoon – no change.

Week 5 (April 11)

	SALTWATER	FRESHWATER	RIVER
Plastic 1	Minimal disintegration	No change	No change
Plastic 2	Shrunk a little	No change	No change
Plastic 3	Minimal disintegration	No change	No change
Plastic 4	No change		
Plastic 5	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 6	No change	Very little thinning	Beginning to dissolve/disintegrate
Plastic 7	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 8	No change, process is complete		

Straws/Spoon – no change.

Week 6 (April 18)

	SALTWATER	FRESHWATER	RIVER
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Plastic 1	Breaking down	Thinning out even more	No change
Plastic 2	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 3	Slightly breaking down more	No change	No change
Plastic 4	Almost entirely gone, small pieces		
Plastic 5	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 6	Becoming more jelly-like	No change	Super small pieces collecting at the bottom, mostly dissolved
Plastic 7	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 8			

Straws/Spoon – no change.

Week 7 (April 25)

	SALTWATER	FRESHWATER	RIVER
Plastic 1	No change	Thinning out still	No change
Plastic 2	No change	Disintegrating/softening	No change
Plastic 3	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 4	Fully disintegrated, miniature debris		
Plastic 5	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 6	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 7	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 8			

Straws/Spoon – no change.

Week 8 (May 1)

	SALTWATER	FRESHWATER	RIVER
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Plastic 1	Still thinning out and shrinking	No change	Even smaller particles
Plastic 2	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 3	Weird jelly-like consistency, gritty slime. Abnormal	No change	No change
Plastic 4			
Plastic 5	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 6	No change	No change	Mostly disintegrated, softening
Plastic 7	No change	No change	No change
Plastic 8			

Straws/Spoon – no change.

AFTER TAMPERING – May 7th, 2024

	SALTWATER	FRESHWATER	RIVER
Plastic 1	Almost entirely disintegrated	Almost entirely disintegrated	Fully disintegrated
Plastic 2	Wax-like, broke apart but did not fully disintegrate	Wax-like, disintegrated mostly	Wax-like, almost fully disintegrated
Plastic 3	Maintained sludgy texture, no further breakage	Wasn't soft but broke apart a little	Still very firm, did not split
Plastic 4			
Plastic 5	Broke up a little bit	Still very firm, did not split	Still very firm, did not split
Plastic 6	Wax-like, almost fully disintegrated	Wax-like, did break apart but did not disintegrate	Wax-like, fully disintegrated
Plastic 7	Still very firm, did not split	Still very firm, did not split	Wasn't soft but broke apart a little
Plastic 8			

Straws/Spoon – no change.

KEY TO UNDERSTAND CHART

Transparent Green Box Highlight – indicates that the plastic has fully dissolved but that there may still be small debris, thick consistency, etc.

Opaque Green Box Highlight – indicates that the plastic has fully dissolved into the water and that there is no remains.