

SINGLE USE ITEMS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Item	Length of time to decompose in landfill	What it it can be made into if it is recycled	How many times it can be recycled
Aluminum Containers	80-100 years	It can be made into new aluminum containers, road signs and window frames.	Infinite
Aluminum Can	80-100 years	It can be recycled into new packaging, like aluminum cans, and sheet metal for automotive manufacturing.	Infinite
Aluminum Foil	Does not biodegrade	It can be recycled into new packaging, like aluminum cans, and sheet metal for automotive manufacturing.	Infinite
Coffee Cup	30 years	<p>At a mill, the layers within the cartons and coffee cups need to be separated before they can be recycled.</p> <p>It can be used to create paper towels, napkins, and bathroom tissue.</p>	Once
Drink Boxes and Cartons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soup, juice, dairy, plant based milk 	5-400 years	These containers are hydra-pulped and turned into tissue paper and cardboard boxes and building materials	1-2 times
Foam Packaging	Does not biodegrade	It can made into things like picture frames, park benches, and crown moulding.	Once
Glass Bottles/Jars	1-2 million years	Glass bottles and jars are recycled into new glass containers, fibreglass insulation, paint for reflective signs, sand blast media and construction aggregate.	Infinite

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Metal Containers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cans for soup, beans, coconut milk, hairspray cans. 	50 years	It can be recycled into new packaging, like aluminum cans, and sheet metal for automotive manufacturing.	Infinite
Paper Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspapers, writing paper, scrap paper, gift wrap, 	2-6 weeks	It can be made into things like egg cartons, boxes, and other paper products.	5-7 times
Paper Packaging and Cardboard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardboard, tissue boxes, toilet paper rolls, paper bags 	2 months	Paper packaging is recycled into new boxes, paper towels, tissues, paper-based plant pots, the paper cover for drywall liner, kraft paper, brown paper products including paper towels.	5-7 times
Paper Towel	2-4 weeks	It can be composted.	N/A
Plastic containers, plastic bags and overwrap	10-1000 years	Plastic is recycled into new packaging, broom, rope, brush bristles, car bumpers, household furnishings, decking, picnic tables, deck chairs and gardening supplies.	1-2 times
Plastic Bottles	450 years	New bottles, buckets, or clothing	1-2 times
Plastic Straw	50-200 years	Plastic straws are recyclable but often fall through the conveyor belt but if it makes it,	1-2 times
Q-tips	5-10 years	Nothing	N/A
Toothbrush	500 years	Nothing	N/A

SINGLE USE ITEMS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA - FLEXIBLE PLASTIC PACKAGING

Item	Length of time to decompose in landfill	What it it can be made into if it is recycled	How many times it can be recycled
<p>Flexible Plastic Packaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand-up and zipper lock pouches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zipper lock pouches for frozen foods like prawns, berries, prepared food, etc. • Zipper lock bags for fresh foods like grapes, berries, deli meat, etc. • Stand-up pouches for baby food, hand soap refills, etc. • Stand-up and zipper lock pouches for things like dried fruits, granola, sugar, oatmeal, quinoa, dish detergent pods, grated cheese, etc. 	<p>10-1000 years</p>	<p>They are researching how to recycle this material and turn it into energy pellets, or engineered fuel, which can be sold as an alternative to coal or other more carbon intensive fuels.</p>	<p>They are researching how to recycle this material.</p> <p>The goal is to recycle as much of the flexible plastic as possible. The material that cannot be recycled will be turned into an engineered fuel.</p>
<p>Flexible Plastic Packaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crinkly Wrappers and Bags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zipper Bags for potato chips, candy, dried pasta, cereal, etc. • Wrappers for cheese slices, snack bars, instant noodles, etc. 	<p>10-20 years</p>	<p>Same as Above</p>	
<p>Flexible Plastic Packaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible Packaging with Plastic Seal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packaging for fresh pasta, pre-packaged deli meats, pre-packaged cheese, etc. 	<p>10-1000 years</p>		
<p>Flexible Plastic Packaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woven and Net Plastic Bags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net bags for avocados, onions, oranges, lemons, limes, etc. • Woven plastic bags for rice, etc. 	<p>10-1000 years</p>		
<p>Flexible Plastic Packaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-food Protective Packaging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Padded protective plastic like plastic shipping envelopes, plastic air packets, bubble wrap Woven plastic bags for rice, etc. 	<p>10-1000 years</p>		