

# ITEMS THAT WILL NOT DECOMPOSE



RECYCLE MONTANA

## STYROFOAM

Made from fossil fuels so that it will never breakdown. Even worse, it floats so it has accumulated across the ocean and other waterways all around the world. Takes 500 years to decompose in a landfill.

## PLASTIC/ZIPLOCK BAGS

These can take 1,000 years to decompose and they are difficult to manage in windy conditions. This has a direct impact on wildlife and birds located near landfills. They are accepted in some curbside programs and there are several stores that will accept to recycle.

## GLASS BOTTLES

Over time, glass eventually breaks down, but the average time span is 4,000 years. Some programs accept glass, so manage appropriately to insure they continue.

## DISPOSABLE DIAPERS

They can take 450 years to decompose and present health and safety concerns for recycling centers.

## PLASTIC BOTTLES

Common item that needs to be recycled whenever possible. They are made to hold liquid; those same characteristics make plastic bottles a difficult item to decompose.

## INK CARTRIDGES

Printer cartridges will take 400 to 1,000 years to decompose, and during this time they have the potential to leak harmful chemicals. There are locations that will reuse cartridges, and some provide reward programs for recycling.

## ELECTRONIC WASTE

In the landfill they can release cadmium, arsenic and lead. There are companies that accept, and some manufacturers have created recycling programs for their products.

## MONOFILAMENT FISHING LINE

The improper disposal of monofilament fishing line causes devastating problems for marine life and the environment. On average it will take 600 years to decompose. There are places to recycle, check with your local recycling center or favorite outdoor store to find local options.