Plastic litter in the beach is mainly an aesthetic nuisance for people, but in the sea it turns into a real problem for animals.

Plastic litter decomposes extremely slowly, and degrades into smaller and more harmful microplastics.

**Do like this:**
Do not leave your garbage on the beaches. Do not leave trash beside a full trash can. Wind and birds often carry trash to the water.

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**How long it takes for a litter item to disintegrate in the sea?**

- **Plastic bag**: 6 weeks
- **Plastic mattress**: 400 years
- **Aluminium can**: 100 years
- **Plastic bottle**: 400 years

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**TOP beach litter types in the Gulf of Finland (2012-2013)**

1. Foamed plastic (insulation and packaging)
2. Plastic bags
3. Bottle caps and lids
4. Food containers, candy wrappers
5. Pieces of fiberglass

...of which 80% is plastic.

**Beach litter study**
Amount of litter items within a 100-m beach strip in 2014

- Helsinki: 160 pieces of litter
  - ...of which 90% is plastic.
- Kotka: 570 pieces of litter
  - ...of which 80% is plastic.
- Tallinn: 40 pieces of litter
  - ...of which 65% is plastic.

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