

## Biodegradability of latex balloons

The European Balloon and Party Council has undertaken extensive research into the biodegradability of latex balloons.

Laboratory tests have shown balloons to biodegrade to approximately 90% within 2 years. Therefore, latex balloons as a product group can be classed as biodegradable.

Latex balloons biodegrade at about the same rate as other natural material, such as oak leaves and wood fibres. Different balloons will have varying rates of biodegradability though, dependent on the process and the desired qualities of the product.

Balloons are manufactured using only natural materials, all of which can be found in their natural state in the environment.

Technically speaking, latex balloons are “natural elastomers” (as opposed to synthetic plastic) and will fully disintegrate.

However, like a banana peel, once it is used a balloon is litter. Therefore, it should be disposed of properly in a bin. Similarly, the industry does not condone balloon releases.

Erpe-Mere, 19/02/2019

