**Biodegradable products**

* Biodegradable products are products that can be broken down and decomposed by microbes and other natural processes. They consist of food waste, paper, wood and fabric. In the absence of moisture and air, decomposition slows and methane, a greenhouse gas, is released.
* The term is often used in relation to waste management, ecology, and the bioremediation of the natural environment. It is now commonly associated with environmentally-friendly products, capable of decomposing back into natural elements.
* Although often conflated, biodegradable is distinct in meaning from: compostable. While biodegradable simply means can be consumed by microorganisms, compostable makes the further specific demand that the object break down under composting conditions.
* Organic material can be degraded aerobically (with oxygen) or anaerobically (without oxygen). Decomposition of biodegradable substances may include both biological and abiotic steps.

**• Landfills**

Although much of what ends up in landfills is biodegradable, it won't break down if it is not exposed to air and moisture due to the fact microbes need a warm and moist environment to thrive. This prevents the microorganisms from decomposing the garbage quickly, unlike what happens when biodegradable materials are composted.