



2016 NOBCChE National Science Fair Abstract

Category: **Physical Science**

Title: **Which material absorbs oil the best?**

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Each year tons of oil is spilled in the oceans and on land as a result of accidents, leakage in transport pipes and containers, and poor disposal. Oil spilled on land can seep into groundwater or enter rivers and streams, and it can also go into sewage water systems. Not only is this harmful to the environment, but it also leaves a chance to contaminate drinking water. In this project five different materials were used to determine which is better to absorb motor oil – kitty litter, flour, cornstarch, sand, and cotton balls. Based on previous experiences, I hypothesized that the cotton balls would absorb the most motor oil and the data collected supports it.

The National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) National Science Fair is a poster competition in which students present an independent completed research project. Each contestant in the Science Fair must demonstrate their ability to conduct a research project by:

- Submitting an abstract of 150 words or less on an individual research project in one of the following **four categories: physical science, math & engineering, consumer science, or biological science.**
- Presenting the results of the research in a poster format, including answering questions from judges; and submitting a written report during the poster presentation.
- For more information, visit www.nobccheSTEMwkd.com.