

Aliza Saper

*Sop It Up: The Best Way to Clean Up Our Oil Spills*

Can any other substance besides hair absorb oil? First gather all materials. Then make the hair, sponge and yarn the same diameter. Lay out a used sheet and put out three containers. Pour a cup of oil in each container and put the hair, yarn and sponge in the oil for ten minutes. When the time is up, take the hair, yarn and sponge out of the oil. Measure the remaining oil in each container. In trial one, the ball of yarn absorbed the most oil and the hair absorbed the least. During trial three, the hair took in the most oil and the yarn took in the least. After trial three, hair absorbed the most oil and the ball of yarn took in the least. This is a very worldly experiment. When the oil spill happened at the Gulf, salons around the country sent boxes of hair clippings there. I wanted to see if we could send something else besides hair. I concluded that next time there is an oil spill, people around the country can send hair, yarn and sponges.