

Impacts of Oil Spills	Grade 8 – Matter and Energy
Handout	

Part 1: Using the material provided to your group, you are required to test the different equipment to evaluate its effectiveness *before* using the dispersant. Additionally, you must identify the material’s role in the oil clean up (i.e., A skimmer, sorbent, dispersant, or boom.) and list your observations.

Type of Material	Role of Material	Effectiveness of Material (1-10)	Observations
Duct tape and straw/pipe cleaner	Boom		
Paper towel	Skimmer		
Cardboard	Sorbent		
Cotton balls	Sorbent		
Spoon	Skimmer		
Dish soap	Dispersant		

Part 2: Using the material provided to your group, you are required to test the different equipment to evaluate its effectiveness *after* using the dispersant. Additionally, you must identify the material's role in the oil clean up (i.e., A skimmer, sorbent, dispersant, or boom) and list your observations.

Type of Material	Role of Material	Effectiveness of Material (1-10)	Observations
Duct tape and straw/pipe cleaner	Boom		
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Cotton balls	Sorbent		
Spoon	Skimmer		
Dish soap	Dispersant		

1. According to your observations, did the dispersant help in cleaning up the oil spill?

Dispersants are helpful to break up oil spills, which make them more easily biodegradable and help with the habitats. It does not remove the oil from the water.

2. According to your observations, do you think the different types of equipment are effective in cleaning oil spills?

Yes, all the different equipment should work together to make it easier to clean oil.

3. Now that you have attempted to clean up an oil spill, has your opinion changed on the strategies that are used to clean up spills such as the *Husky Energy* spill? If so, why?

Student opinion.
