

# OIL SPILL AND HAIR DEMO

2010

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REQUIRED!

## Did you know? :

"You shampoo your hair because it gets greasy. Hair is very efficient at collecting oil out of the air, off surfaces like your skin and out of the water, even petroleum oil. Hair is adsorbant (as in "clings to" unlike absorbant which is to "soak up.") These stockings filled with

hair are called "booms" or "oil socks." Booms are used to circle and contain a spill and protect fragile eco-systems. You can show this by pouring oil into water and using the tightly packed boom to push the oil from one side of the bin to another and keep it from flowing back.

## Demo Supplies:

- Hair
- stockings (3 pairs)
- used motor oil
- tupperware clear (kitty litter box size) with lid
- water
- baby wipes
- rubber gloves
- plastic garbage bags 3
- scissors
- tray
- paper towels

1. Cut the stockings at the top of the thigh so that you have single legs and leave enough so you can tie a knot at the top. You want each hair stocking tube to be a bit shorter than the length your tupperware bin.
2. Take handfuls of hair and stuff into 3 nylon legs loosely so that the oil and water can seep in and get to a lot of the hair. It should be floppy. Stuff 3 nylon legs tightly so it looks like a straight hairy leg. Save one loosely filled boom and one stiff boom for final clean up. Tie knots on the end of all booms and have in a ready pile.
3. open 2 plastic garbage bags- 1 ready to dump the oily hair stockings. Make sure one is so close it is touching the tupperware bin so you don't have oily drips when you are throwing the oily booms away.
4. Pour clear water into the clear tupperware bin
5. Put on gloves and bring out the used motor oil on a tray with paper towels, pour in about a half cup of the used motor oil into the middle of the bin. This is very visual and interesting looking.
6. Put in a loose hair boom on top and gently swish it around to see how it slurps up the oil.
7. Lift up the stocking and show how the oil clings to the hair but clear water sheets off back into the bin. Make sure all students can see the oil rise to the top.
8. Repeat demo if you would like.



## 2 weeks in advance:

1. Go to your local hair salon ask for clean hair clippings (ideally 4 pounds of hair or a whole shopping bag full)
2. Collect Nylons old and washed (runs are okay as you can use the other leg or double them if the runs are big). Stockings cannot have big holes.
3. Collect used motor oil. Go to a local mechanic, Jiffy Lube or Oil Changers to request 1 quart.

## How to dispose of oily materials:

1. Dispose of the oily hair stocking into the garbage bag.
2. Use another loose hair stocking to wipe any oil on the edges
3. When done, use your saved loose stuffed stocking to do one final clean up wipe. And use baby wipes for any corners you can't quite get to.
4. Put rubber gloves and oily plastic motor oil bottles in the other garbage bag. Put lid on tupperware full of water.
5. **Be sure to dispose of water, oily hair and other oiled garbage accordingly and not with the regular trash or down the drain. Take all of the waste to the local garbage facility and follow their special instructions.**

\* Remember drains always lead somewhere and 1 quart of oil can contaminate 1,000,000 gallons of clean water.\*



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