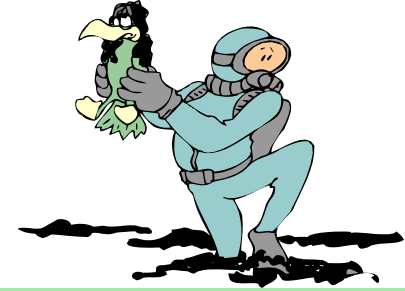


Oil Clean Up



When there is oil deposited in our waterways it affects our wildlife in damaging ways. It coats the feathers of ducks and birds preventing them from keeping warm and making them sick, it prevents important light from penetrating the surface of water, and it smothers smaller aquatic life that large animals and fish feed on. Oil is a common pollutant in our waterways and ends up there through runoff from parking lots and roadways, dumping of oils in our ravines, ditches, and rivers, and through spills directly on our waterways. Cleaning the oil from the waterways to try to sustain life is difficult and expensive.

This activity will show you how hard it is to clean up oil from our waterways. You will try many different ways, see which one you think is the easiest!

Materials:

- One large bowl
- One measuring cup
- Water
- Cooking oil
- Different dishwashing detergents
- Paper towels or piece of cloth
- Sponges
- String

Procedure:

1. Fill half of the bowl with water
2. Measure $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of oil and pour into the bowl of water
1. Gently shake the bowl to create “waves”. Did the oil and water mix?
2. Now try to clean up the oil using paper towel or cloth.
3. Use string to make a border around the oil and try to drag the oil to one side of the bowl.
4. Use the sponge to try to soak up the oil
5. Try to clean up the oil with each kind of detergent.