

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2013 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J2110

Project Title

Wiping Up the Competition

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The objective is to determine the best value paper towel by comparing its strength and absorbency with its cost.

Methods/Materials

I used four brands of paper towels: Bounty, Brawny, Kirkland and Scott. I tested each one for its strength, absorbency and saturation. For Strength, I measured how many coins, later converted to grams, a paper towel could hold while wet. For absorbency, I measured how much water the towel can hold before it leaked through the bottom. For saturation, I measured how much water could be squeezed, in milliliters, out of the paper towel when it was fully soaked in water.

Results

Bounty beat the other paper towels in strength and absorbency and Kirkland was the runner-up. Kirkland was the least expensive paper towel brand.

Conclusions/Discussion

My conclusion when I compared the cost factor with their performance showed that Kirkland, even though it ranked second or third in the trial tests, was the best value for the money in terms of performance and cost.

Summary Statement

The purpose of this project is to determine which brand of paper towel has the best value by testing its performance versus the cost of the paper towel.

Help Received

My mom helped edit my paper and my dad helped me with all the charts and putting together the data.