

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2003 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J1124

Project Title

The Battle of the Laundry Detergents

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The purpose of this project was to find out which laundry detergent worked best on removing stains. I think that Tide laundry detergent will work best on removing stains.

Methods/Materials

My experiment involved staining pieces of 100% cotton flannel material with mustard, ketchup, mud, grass and Coke. After the stains dried for 24 hours, the pieces of material were washed in various laundry detergents and dried.

Results

After washing the 100% cotton flannel pieces of material in the specific laundry detergents outlined in my procedure, I found that one detergent did not work best on all stains. For example, Cheer detergent worked best on the mustard stain, yet Tide worked best on the mud, grass and ketchup stains. Both Tide and Cheer removed the Coke stain about the same.

Conclusions/Discussion

By performing this experiment, I found that overall Tide detergent removed the majority of the stains the best. It worked best on 3 of the 5 stains. It took out most of the mud, grass and ketchup and tied with Cheer detergent on the Coke stain. My experiment therefore supported my hypothesis that Tide would work best at removing stains. I feel that further experimentation needs to be done, a larger sample of stains and laundry detergents need to be used to determine which laundry detergent really is the best.

Summary Statement

I used various laundry detergents on everyday stains to determine which detergent works best on removing stains.

Help Received

I would like to thank my family who helped me with this project: my dad, who helped with my research and my display board, and my mom, who helped me with typing and proofreading my report. A very special thank you to Ms. Asherson, my science teacher at Pinecrest Middle School in Simi Valley, for