

Ask Jon Eakes

OIL LIFT -- getting oil off of anything.

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Most driveway cleaners are powerful solvents that dilute the oil, even dissolve the asphalt, and create more pollution. Research in British Columbia has shown that more oil gets into the ocean from streets, driveways and parking lots than from oil tanker spills.

So in an effort to clean the oceans and with some help from professors from the University of B.C., Kevin Daum came up with a product that soaks into just about anything, including concrete, paving stone and asphalt, foams the spilled oil up to the surface (without bothering the oil components in asphalt) which allows you to sponge it all up rather than flush it down the drain.

Contact between the Oil Lift and the oil begins a process of breaking down the carbon chains in the oil which makes the whole mess bio-degradable. You can actually throw the slurry on your lawn and the enzymes in the soil will finish the process, and feed your grass at the same time. Now that's an interesting cleaner -- the only driveway cleaner I know about that carries a Canadian EcoLogo. And it really does clean the driveway.

Of course Kelvin uses it to clean everything including the laundry, but then inventors are always like that with their products. To this product's credit I have discovered that a quarter cup a month down my bathroom sink drain (let it sit) dissolves all that oily residu from creams and oils that get to smelling and blocking up those sink drains. This is the most effective bio-degradable drain maintenance product I have found -- allowing me to totally avoid those potent acid drain cleaners.

It is generally available at Canadian Tire and we should all beat up the store managers to get them to make it more prominent over the polluting solvents that they also sell for cleaning driveways. Their web site is www.OilLift.net. I have been supporting this product for years. I guess someday I should get them to pay me for doing this.

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