A comparison of nonionic surfactants for the treatment of diesel-contaminated soil

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Surfactants can enhance the solubility of diesel. In this paper, nonionic surfactants were investigated for the selection of a suitable agent to remove diesel oil from soil. Four surfactants were studied – Tergitol 15–S–7, 15–S–12, Tween 80 and APG.

According to their hydrophilic/hydrophobic groups, diesel solubility was different and it was also influenced by the existence of soil.

A suitable nonionic surfactant can be selected by considering its solubilization capacity for diesel and adsorption onto soil.