

Removal of organic pollutants from contaminated soil by use of amphiphilic block copolymers

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Surfactants are usually used to remove contaminants in the soil, but they are harmful substances and likely to remain in the soil. The remaining materials cause additional pollution in the soil. In this study, we attempted to present new approach in the soil cleaning process using amphiphilic block copolymers containing hydrophilic poly(ethylene glycol) block and hydrophobic polyethylene or poly(propylene glycol) block. The effect of polymer structure and poly(ethylene glycol) contents on the removal efficiency was investigated in comparison with the conventional sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) surfactant.