

## THEY KNOW THE OIL BIDNESS IN HOUSTON

Will, as someone who does track prep for many different tracks throughout the country, no one hates oil-downs more than me. I am/was a big fan of the diapers. I have made an

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observation after having worked the ADRL race in Houston. With the diapers, oil-downs are much harder to detect. The plume of smoke that used to be the mark of an oil-down is pretty much gone. Also gone is the big splash of oil on the track. Now you get a very fine mist of oil that is hard to detect by the spotters.

In Houston, most of the oil-downs were detected by the track personnel at the end of the track. These types of oil-downs can be very hard to clean. It's not enough oil for absorbent, but any oil on the racing surface is too much.

We were lucky in that Houston Motorsports Park has one of the Track Scrubbers made by Steve Garrett. The longest oil-down we

had in Houston lasted about 14 minutes. So, as a warning to track personnel everywhere, check the track after the slightest puff of smoke. And check it with your hand, as a dragging of the foot may not detect it.

**David Buyalos**  
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