

NORTECH INNOVATION AWARDS 2010

ABSMaterials Inc. (formerly Absorbent Materials Co. LLC)

Osorb

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ABSMaterials Inc., formerly Absorbent Materials Co. LLC, has tested the waters with Osorb, its absorbent glass, and says the innovation's ability to remove toxins from water has significant environmental implications.

The Wooster-based company has developed and patented seven different types of shape-changing glass that are capable of removing oil, chemicals or pharmaceuticals from water and are a "vastly lower cost solution to ecological clean-up activities," according to its NorTech Innovation Awards nomination form.

"We can extract Prozac from the water and recover it for reuse," said Stephen Spoonamore, CEO and chairman. "We can capture it in the molecule form, so it's more pure than it was before. The secondary byproducts and fillers are gone."

The glass can remediate toxins in groundwater, remove hexamine from polluted water, or remove organic acids and hydrocarbons from produced, or polluted, water that is pumped during the production of oil and natural gas.

The various forms of glass also capture volatile compounds like oil and octane, or volatile pharmaceuticals like antidepressants or solvents.

"There are so many potential uses for this technology, but even if they were doing nothing else but groundwater cleanup, that's a multibillion dollar industry," said Ted Frank, a venture partner with JumpStart Inc., which invested in the company in December.