



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2002 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Andy P. McCornack	Project Number 22412
Project Title Which Paper Is Better for You and Your Tank?	
Objectives/Goals I wanted to determine which toilet paper was best in the areas of 1) strength, 2) softness, 3) septic tank friendliness, and 4) cost effectiveness. Abstract Methods/Materials I randomly selected 3 brands of toilet paper to use in my experiment. Each sample was subjected to the same criteria. First was a strength test, where a square of paper was put over a cup, secured by a rubber band, a squirt of water was applied, and then pennies were added until the paper collapsed. The number of pennies each sample held was recorded. Softness was determined by asking 3 people to feel the different tissues and giving their opinion on which they thought was the softest. Septic tank friendliness was tested by putting one square of each tissue in 1 liter of water and letting them sit for 4 days. Then I visually observed which paper had deteriorated the most. Cost effectiveness was based on the price of a single roll of each tissue. Results In the strength test Soft Choice was 1st, then Value Soft 2nd, and Scott brand came in 3rd place. The softness test and septic tank friendliness test had the same results as the strength test. The cost/roll had Value Soft in 1st place, followed by Soft Choice in 2nd, and Scott in 3rd place. Conclusions/Discussion My hypothesis was that Scott brand toilet paper would be first in all of the tests because of its reputation and TV advertisements. Instead, I found out that Soft Choice was the strongest, the softest, and the most septic tank friendly, while coming in second in terms of cost.	
Summary Statement Because of where I live and having to use septic tanks and infiltrator systems I was curious to see how 3 different types of toilet paper compared in strength, softness, septic tank friendliness and cost.	
Help Received Mrs. Smith helped me to organize my display board. Ms. Baird helped me prepare my display board for the California State Science Fair.	