A CLEAN GETAWAY

Walk on top of a liquid without getting your feet wet.

THE SETUP
Cornstarch and water---treat this mixture gently and it’s a liquid; beat on it and it’s a solid. Use this knowledge to do a phenomenal feat with your feet. But do this outside because it can be messy.

You will need:
• 1 box cornstarch    • newspapers    • measuring cup    • water
• 2 or more large baking pans (about 15 in. x 10 in.)

Spread newspapers on the ground because you might not get this right the first time. You’ll have to clean up the mess when you’re finished. Pour about two cups of water into the baking pan. Sprinkle in a package of cornstarch a little at a time, mixing with your hands. This mixture has been called ooblick or gobbledygook. Ooblick is the proper consistency when it is about as thick as mayonnaise. It should be about one inch deep. Repeat the mixing process in each pan you are using.

Set the pans about one footstep apart on the newspaper. Make sure your shoes are clean.

Wipe the soles with wet rags or paper towels, if necessary. Prepare mentally. You must be bold.

Success comes only to those who stomp hard and fast. With forceful energy, step into the first pan and move quickly to the next.

Don’t stop until you’re finished. Now check your shoes. If you walked on top of the ooblick, your shoes will be perfectly clean and dry.

Pussyfooters are exposed by the ooblick on their soles.
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INSIDER INFORMATION
By now, you’ve probably noticed that cornstarch and water is not an ordinary mixture. The cornstarch doesn’t dissolve in water. Why not? Each grain of cornstarch contains two kinds of structures one is shaped like a crystal and the other is non-crystalline.
The non-crystalline structures absorb more water than the crystalline. When the mixture is handled (in this case when you step on it) the crystalline structures break down and become non-crystalline. More water is then absorbed and the ooblick becomes solid. When the pressure is off, the crystals reform, releasing the water, and the ooblick oozes once again.
Treading softly doesn’t put enough pressure on the cornstarch to break the crystals. As with a normal liquid, you’ll get wet feet. Stomping makes ooblick solid. If you stomp hard enough, you may actually crack it.
Ooblick is fun to play with. Roll it between your hands and it becomes a ball. But don’t try to throw an ooblick ball. As soon as you stop rolling it, ooblick drips through your fingers.