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Nanotube 'forest' makes super slippery surface

A material less sticky than Teflon has been created by covering a surface with a "forest" of carbon nanotubes. It could find use in the construction of microscopic machines and devices, which are prone to inter-molecular forces.

Microscopic structures experience friction because of the minute attractive forces that exist between molecules. These forces become much more significant as components are shrunk to the scale of a few millionths of a metre.

Now researchers from Cambridge University [[profile](#)] in UK, the Technical University of Denmark [[profile](#)] and the University of Southern Denmark have found a way to reduce this friction. They discovered that coating a work surface with upright carbon nanotubes allows microscopic components to be moved across the surface more easily.

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