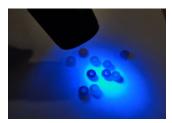
NNCI—Nanoscale Science and Engineering Exploring Ultraviolet Radiation

Explore!

- 1. Shine the black light over a UV bead. What happens?
- 2. Select a sunscreen and using a Q-tip spread some of it over a transparency square. Now place the UV bead under the square. Shine the black light on the UV beads. What happens?



3. Repeat with another sunscreen that is either more or less opaque then the first one. What happens?



4. Did one sunscreen work better than another? Was opacity important? Was nanotechnology used in the sunscreens? Did it improve the sunscreen?







UV beads are the perfect tool for understanding how solar radiation can be harmful. When you expose bare skin to sunlight, your skin will either burn or tan. UV radiation wavelengths are short enough to break chemical bonds in your skin tissue and, with prolonged exposure, your skin may wrinkle or skin cancer may appear.





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Sunscreens and Nanotechnology

Why have sunscreens with inorganic agents been used less?

Particles larger than 150nm scatter visible light

Our eyes see visible scattered light (visible range is 400-700nm)
The scattered light is seen as a white sunscreen



Nanotechnology to the rescue?

Inorganic particles made < 100 nm—do not scatter visible light Sunscreen will appear clear or translucent



http://www.keys-soap.com/solarrx.html



http://allaboutskinlightening.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/dfgffgf.jpg

Appearance

With advances come issues of risk. Some fear that the use of nano-sized particles of Ti and Zn pose risks to human health and the environment. Note the Australian ad at the far right stating microsized not nanosized.



Sunscreen is the most important beauty product you can buy.

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