

# Nanotechnology for Nanodummies!

You are small, too, come to discover nanotechnology with us!



In 1959, nanotechnologies are mentioned for the first time. A few years later, we already talked of a technological revolution.

Nanotechnologies are all particles which measure between 1 and 100 nanometers: we can see them with our eyes. A nanometer is a billion times smaller than a meter, that is to say the size of an orange compared the size of Earth!

We don't know it but there are lots of particles in our life. They can be found in textiles. Silver nano-particles for example are present in our socks to fight bad smells. There are also present in sunscreens to make them easier to spread: forget white marks on the skin and eventually the clown effect on the beach!

Despite their small size nano-particles are very resistant and much lighter than the materials that are currently used. for the same diameter, a carbon nanotube is 100 times stronger than a steel pipe.

Despite its efficiency, nanotechnology is being questioned because it may be harmful to humans beings and to the environment on the future. Some Studies are currently underway to determine their environmental and human impact. On some people, they cross the cell barrier and cause some diseases. Nano particles released into rivers change fish behavior: sometimes we observed alterations when they swim.

Nanotechnology, a real progress, but how safe is it?

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