

## Particle Size—Sunblock

These pictures help explain why larger zinc oxide particles are easier to see on the black paper (or your skin). Both pictures have the same ratio of white to black. The large white dots are much easier to see than the small dots, because each large dot reflects more light than a small dot.

The nanoparticles of zinc oxide in the sunblock are much, much smaller than the dots in these pictures. They're smaller than the wavelength of visible light! The nanoparticles don't reflect visible light to our eyes, so we don't see them once the sunblock is rubbed in. But they're still big enough to absorb UV light and protect our skin.

