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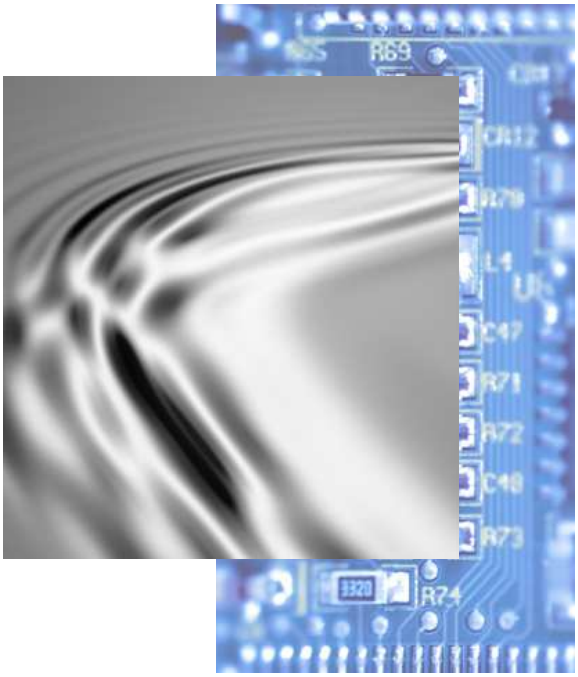
Silver in Nanotechnology



Over the last century, products containing nanoscale silver have been commercially available and used in diverse applications such as pigments, photographics, wound treatment, conductive/autostatic composites, catalysts, and as a biocide. Along with this diverse history of use, there has been an extraordinary amount of research conducted over the past 120 years, concerning the chemistry of nanoscale silver and its antimicrobial applications. Nanoscale silver particles have been used in pigments, photographics, wound treatment, conductive/antistatic composites, catalysts, and as a biocide. Its biocidal applications are among the most studied today.

Silver's antibacterial qualities have applications that reach far beyond the medical world. Washing machines, refrigerators, air conditioners, air purifiers and vacuum cleaners all rely upon silver nanoparticles to sterilize up to 650 types of bacteria. Nanotechnology is still at a very early stage in terms of its usage. The full extent of its application remains to be seen but scientists and consumers are hopeful regarding the environmental implications of nanotechnology.

The Silver Nanotechnology Working Group (SNWG) began in January 2009 as an industry-wide effort to foster the collection of data on silver nanotechnology in order to advance the science and public understanding of the beneficial uses of silver nanoparticles in a wide-range of consumer and industrial products.

To read the latest reports and news from the SNWG, please follow the links below:

- Written Comments Submitted by the SNWG to the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel / November 3-5, 2009, Washington, D.C. / Submitted to the Public Docket