

Supplementary Information

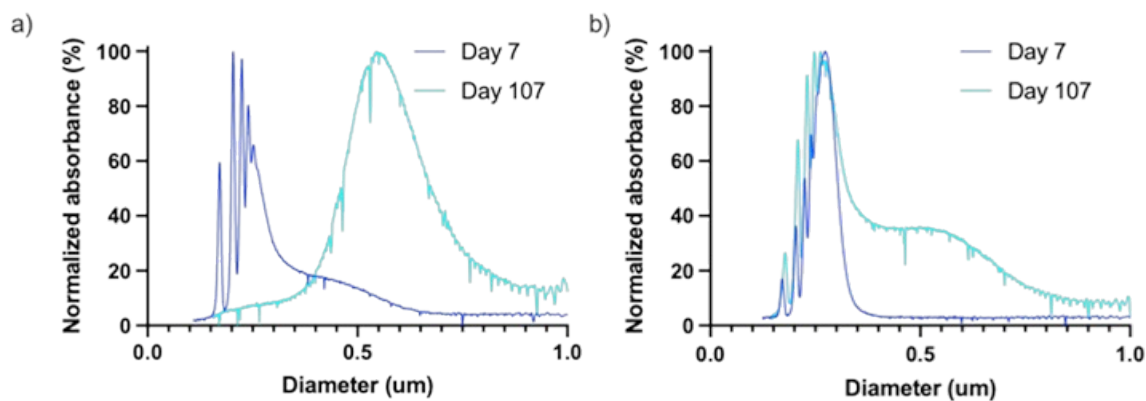


Figure S1. DCS analyses of 195 nm polystyrene nanoparticles. A. UVB treated nanoparticles, B. Non UVB treated nanoparticles.

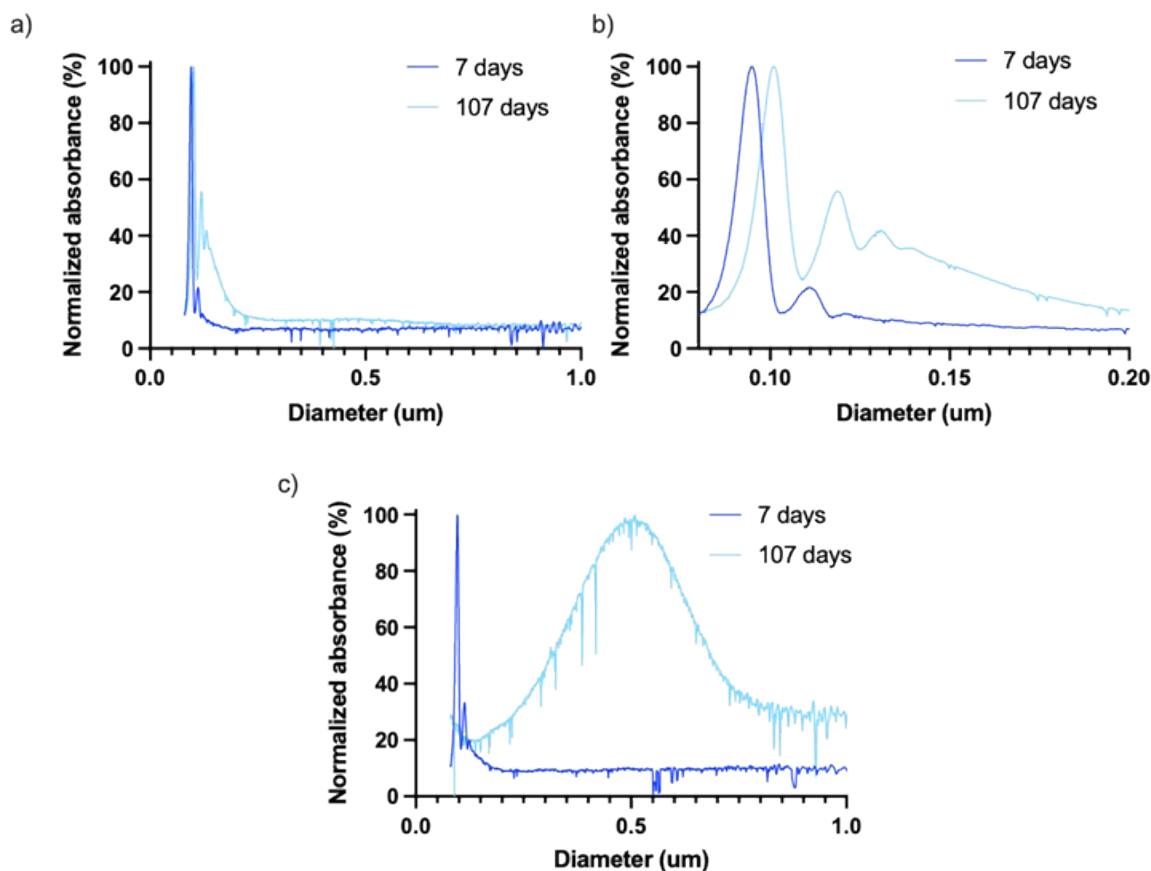


Figure S2. DSC analyses of 99 nm polystyrene nanoparticles. A. UVB treated nanoparticles, B: magnified UVB treated nanoparticles, C: UVB treated nanoparticles together with iron oxide nanoparticles

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|----|------|
| 15 min | 1760 | 66 | 0.64 |
| 20 min | 1760 (2100) | 66 | 0.48 |
| 25 min | 1780 (2300) | 75 | 0.38 |
| 99 nm | | | |
| 0 min | 103 | 8 | 1.71 |
| 5 min | 99 | 11 | 2.23 |
| 10 min | 97 | 10 | 1.34 |
| 15 min | 95 | 10 | 1.86 |
| 20 min | 98 | 10 | 1.57 |
| 25 min | 98 | 10 | 1.68 |
| 99 nm Filtered 0.8 μm | | | |
| 0 min | 105 | 10 | 1.97 |
| 5 min | 105 | 9 | 1.85 |
| 10 min | 104 | 9 | 2.28 |
| 15 min | 104 | 9 | 1.68 |
| 20 min | 104 | 9 | 1.67 |
| 25 min | 102 | 9 | 0.96 |

Supplementary Table 3. Size and the total weight estimated from NTA data from 2 μm or 99 nm polystyrene particles subjected to mechanical breakdown. The reported number is the average of 5 measurements on each of the samples.

| Time (minutes) | Concentration (particles/ml) | Mean diameter (nm) |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Filtered 2 μm | | |
| 0 | $6.9 \times 10^7 \pm 2.0 \times 10^7$ | 288 |
| 5 | $6.1 \times 10^8 \pm 5.6 \times 10^7$ | 110 |
| 10 | $6.1 \times 10^8 \pm 3.7 \times 10^7$ | 119 |
| 15 | $1.5 \times 10^9 \pm 6.4 \times 10^7$ | 104 |
| 20 | $1.8 \times 10^9 \pm 2.0 \times 10^7$ | 104 |
| 25 | $2.2 \times 10^9 \pm 3.5 \times 10^7$ | 78 |
| Filtered 100 nm | | |
| 0 | $1.8 \times 10^{12} \pm 9.5 \times 10^{10}$ | 80 |
| 5 | $2.3 \times 10^{12} \pm 1.7 \times 10^{11}$ | 81 |
| 10 | $1.9 \times 10^{12} \pm 1.2 \times 10^{11}$ | 81 |
| 15 | $1.7 \times 10^{12} \pm 4.1 \times 10^{10}$ | 82 |
| 20 | $2.0 \times 10^{12} \pm 7.1 \times 10^{10}$ | 83 |
| 25 | $1.3 \times 10^{12} \pm 6.8 \times 10^{10}$ | 82 |

Supplementary Table 4. Size and the total weight estimated from DLS data from 2 μm or 99 nm polystyrene particles subjected to mechanical breakdown. Each sample were measured 20 times.

| Time (minutes) | Diameter (nm) | Acquis Nr/30 | PD (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 2 μm | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|----|-----------|
| 0 min | --- | | |
| 5 min | --- | | |
| 10 min | --- | | |
| 15 min | --- | | |
| 20 min | --- | | |
| 25 min | --- | | |
| 2 µm Filtered 0.8 µm | | | |
| 0 min | - | | |
| 5 min | 65 ± 6 | 12 | 16.5±8.9 |
| 10 min | 64 ± 8 | 6 | 23.5±12.4 |
| 15 min | 65 ± 8 | 9 | 9.5±3.3 |
| 20 min | 66 ± 8 | 8 | 12.3±12.2 |
| 25 min | 62 ± 3 | 5 | 21.9±16.4 |
| 99 nm | | | |
| 0 min | 95±1.6 | 30 | 7.1±4.8 |
| 5 min | 95.6±1.5 | 30 | 6.4±4.4 |
| 10 min | 95.4±1.9 | 30 | 7.1±5.0 |
| 15 min | 94.5±2.1 | 30 | 8.3±4.4 |
| 20 min | 96.6±2.7 | 29 | 6.1±5.3 |
| 25 min | 95.7±2.1 | 30 | 10.7±5.9 |
| 99 nm Filtered 0.8 µm | | | |
| 0 min | 92 | 30 | 8.0 |
| 5 min | 91.2±1.8 | 30 | 6.5±4.3 |
| 10 min | 91.1±2.0 | 30 | 8.2±4.5 |
| 15 min | 89.9±2.0 | 30 | 10±3.3 |
| 20 min | 92.4±1.3 | 30 | 8.6±4.6 |
| 25 min | 92.0±1.9 | 30 | 10±4.7 |



Figure S3. Experimental setup for UVC treatment. **Panel 1** shows the UVC lamp submerged in 385 mL of Milli-Q H₂O (green arrow). **Panel 2** depicts the UVC lamp immersed in the liquid and connected via tubing and glass rods to a peristaltic pump for solution circulation. The red arrow indicates the valve used for sample withdrawal during UVC treatment. **Panel 3** presents the complete setup. Aluminum foil was used to prevent UVC light from escaping the system. A thermometer, with its sensor taped beneath the aluminum foil to the glass rod guiding the circulating solution out of the beaker, is indicated by orange arrows.

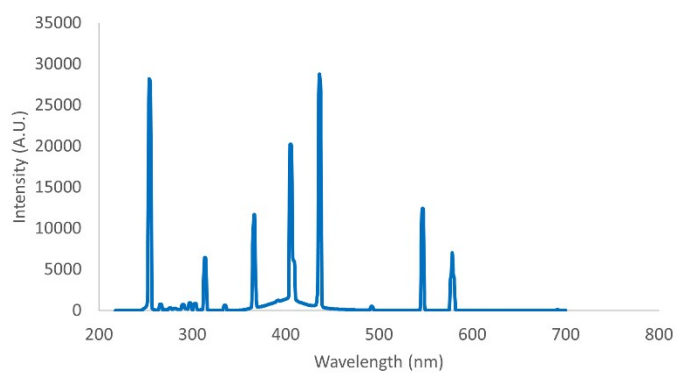


Figure S4. Emission spectra from the UVC lamp used in the breakdown experiments.