

SURFACE AREA VERSUS VOLUME OF SOME LIVING ORGANISMS

	Horse	Puppy	Bumble Bee	Tick	Bacterium
Radius (cm)*	100	10	1	0.1	0.0001
Surface area (cm²)*	1.3×10^4	1300	13	0.13	1.3×10^{-7}
Volume (cm³)*	4.2×10^6	4200	4.2	0.0042	4.2×10^{-12}
Ratio of Surface area to Volume (SA÷V)	0.003	0.30	3.0	30	30 000

But, what about particles at the ***nanoscale?***

For a **uckyball** with a radius of **1 nm** (that's 1×10^{-7} cm):

$$\text{The volume} = 4.2 \times 10^{-21} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ and surface area} = 1.3 \times 10^{-13} \text{ cm}^2$$

That gives a **SURFACE AREA to VOLUME ratio** of 3×10^6 ; That's **30 000 000 !!**

Note* Organisms are treated as if they are more or less spherical in shape; (all dimensions are approximate).