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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Advanced cotton fibers exhibit efficient photocatalytic self-cleaning and antimicrobial activity

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GRAPHIC ABSTRACT



ABSTRACT Functional cotton fibers have a wide range of applications in domestic, commercial, and military settings, and so enhancing the properties of these materials can yield substantial benefits. Herein, we report the creation of functional fibers that are self-cleaning, anti-microbial, and protective against UV radiation. A uniform, and high surface area films of TiO₂ were deposited on cotton fibers and gold / silver nanoparticles were directly incorporated on the nanostructured TiO₂ surface. The synthetic method is simple and the produced TiO₂ film is homogenous and the nanoparticles were shown to be effectively distributed on the surface using a simple photocatalytic reduction method. The Ag/Au-TiO₂ coated fibers was morphologically characterized using atomic force microscopy (AFM) and scanning electron microscopy / energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (SEM/EDS), and the self-cleaning properties of noble metal nanoparticle / TiO₂ coated fibers were demonstrated by repeated staining followed by exposure to simulated solar light. The 1 mM Ag-TiO₂ coated fibers with a methylene blue stain, and the 1 mM Au-TiO₂ coated fibers were observed to have the largest

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