

3D Printing Frequently Asked Questions

- What is 3D printing?
3D Printing is a way to bring your imagination to life! This process allows you to make physical objects from a three-dimensional digital model.
- How much does it cost?
Print costs \$0.10 per gram. Depending on the size and supports of your project, this will vary.
- Can I print my own project?
To ensure that our printers are well maintained, only our staff will be conducting all print jobs.
- What can I print?
The options are endless! You can print something decorative to something functional. See www.thingiverse.com, an online collection of 3D designed objects that others have created and uploaded to share! This is a great place to start an idea and see what others have made.
- Can I print projects I find online?
Your projects can be created by yourself, or found online from a website like www.thingiverse.com. Please make sure it follows our 3D printing policy before submitting to the library!
- Are there lessons I can take for 3D printing?
TinkerCAD.com provides beginner tutorials for those just starting to design in 3D. The library also offers further instruction on this software during our 3D printing workshop! See the Teen page on our website and the calendar for more information on the workshops and lessons.
- Are there other programs I can design with besides TinkerCAD?
Yes! There are a variety of free and purchasable CAD software you can use. When designing please save your project as .STL so your project can be inputted into our printer software. Programs vary from browser-based to downloadable software. They also vary in usability based on designing experience. Popular 3D designing software is TinkerCAD, Blender, FreeCAD, Sculptris, SketchUp, AutoCAD, and much more. We recommend TinkerCAD for first-time 3D designers because it offers helpful tutorials and user-friendly design tools. It is also a free, browser-based program which means you can save your work and access it from any computer you log into!

- Do I have to design in the library?
You can design a project at home, just make sure you send your project to the library with the appropriate information needed.
- How do I submit a project to the library?
Please see our instructions on the 3D printing homepage for a step-by-step procedure. You'll also find restrictions to submitting and our policy for what can be printed there.
- How long does a project take to print?
This depends on the size, as well as the detail of your project. Bigger projects need more time to print. More detail needs more supports to print properly. Also the existing library's que of prints will effect when it can reach the printer. Feel free to check on its status by contacting the library, but understand exact time and dates cannot be given.
- Why do I have to wait for my project to print?
The Library's printers work on a printing que, this is a list of projects in the order that the library's receives them. This is to ensure that all projects that the library receives are properly printed in a timely manner that is fair to all users. Sometimes the que will have a waiting list with many projects, and other times the que will be short. This all varies by how many projects we receive.
- What colors can I print in?
Colors are currently not an option. Since filament has a short shelf life, each filament roll will be used until it runs out, and then be switched for a new.
- Do I have to be a North Castle Library card holder to attend the 3D printing workshops and use the 3D printers?
You don't have to be a library card holder to attend our workshops or use our printers! We welcome all designers and creators to use our services.
- How small can the printer print without distorting the project?
This varies by how much detail your project has. The more detail the less stable your project will print when brought down in size significantly.

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