

3D Printing at the Walnut Creek Library : Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of 3D printers does the Library have?

- We have two Type A Machines Series 1 printers. Both printers use PLA plastic filament.

What is the cost for printing?

- 3D printing at the Library is currently free, thanks to a grant provided by the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation

How do I sign up to print?

- Visit <http://ccclib.org/locations/walnutcreek.html> to sign up for our 3D printing classes during the summer.

What software do I need to design my 3D object?

- Any 3D drafting software will work, as long as you can convert your file to the .stl format before you send it to the Library.
We recommend [Trimble SketchUp](#), a free online download at sketchup.com. Also consider [Tinkercad](#), software that works in a browser without the need to download an application. Files are ultimately readied for printing in Cura, another free download. Cura can be used to change the size of an object, adjust the object's location on the build plate, and add 'rafts,' 'supports,' and other printing aids. Cura also previews the print and estimates final print time. The Library will view all files in Cura before printing your job.

Where can I learn about designing 3D objects?

- Check our calendar of events for classes on 3D design or printing. Or, request a book-a-docent appointment for one-on-one help. Also, go to <http://www.wclibrary.org/3d-printer/> for resources.

Where can I find 3D object design and inspiration?

- Try [Thingiverse](#) or [3D Warehouse](#). These sites also have designs you can download and print. Also, go to <http://www.wclibrary.org/3d-printer/> to find a list of more resources.

Do you have any tips for object design?

- 3D printers don't like files that have large overhangs. Things in the shape of a tree, with wide tops and narrow bottoms, are more difficult to print. Errors in printing are common, and if they occur while you are not present to fix them, you may need to reschedule your print job for another day.

How long will my job take to print?

- It is sometimes difficult to estimate exact print times. Library staff will make an educated guess about the length of your job. We will only print objects that estimate to take less than 4 hours

Where does the printing take place?

- Your object will be printed in the Maker Space which is located on the first floor, to the left of the main desk.

Can I choose my filament color?

- Yes. The Library currently has many colors available, including orange, yellow, blue, green, light green, clear, and "natural".

Can my job use more than one color?

- No. Our printers can only print in one color at a time.

How dense can I make my object?

- All jobs are printed at medium density setting.

How large can my object be?

- The Library will only print objects that will take less than 3 hours.

Is it possible to print weapons at the Library?

- No. The Library will not schedule print jobs for dangerous objects. We reserve the right to refuse any print request. Additionally, the PLA filament used by the Type A Series 1 is not the type used for some of the dangerous prints you may have seen on the news.

What happens if my file doesn't print correctly?

- Errors with 3D printing are common. If the error can't be fixed on the spot, you may need to reschedule your job for another day.

Are 3D printed objects 'food safe?' No.

I am under 13 years old. Can I use the 3D printer? Yes.