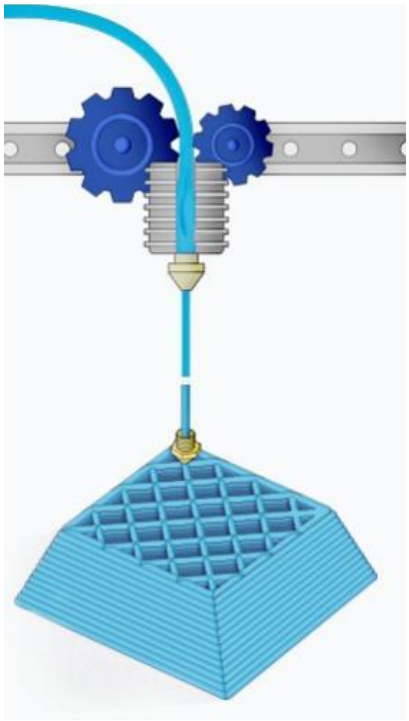
# 3D Printing FAQ



## What is 3D printing?

A 3D printer melts and then layers plastic filament to **build an object**.

## What can I print?

You can **make your own design** using CAD (computer-aided design) with certain websites and softwares. For beginners and hobbyists, we recommend using Tinkercad (https://www.tinkercad.com/). For a more experienced designer, we recommend OnShape. (https://www.onshape.com/en/).

You can also **download a design** that someone else has published. Check out what is available in the Tinkercad gallery or on Thingiverse (https://www.thingiverse.com/).

If you need help learning how to CAD, or if you would like further direction on how to design or find a print, speak to Allison Rozear at the technology desk or **schedule an appointment** at the front desk.

## How do I use the printer?

When you have a .stl file to print, **send it** to library@wolcottct.org. Specify the color you would like us to use in the email. We will get back to you as soon as possible and confirm that your print is in the queue.

If you have any questions on this step, we can help. Speak to Allison Rozear at the technology desk or **schedule an appointment** at the front desk.

## What size objects can I print?

At the Wolcott Library, the maximum dimension you can print is **6” x 6” x 6”**.

## How long will it take to print my file?

Very small designs may take several minutes to print, but bigger designs may take several hours. We can give you an estimate of how long your print may take upon receiving your file.

## How much does printing cost?

At our library, it costs **25 cents per 15 minutes** of printing.

## What colors can I use?

We have a selection of different colors to choose from. Come to the library to see your options!

You can also use several different colors of filament when printing one object. This is done by switching filament out at some point during the print.

## What type of plastic are 3D prints made of?

You can print in an array of different materials depending on the machine and filament you use. Some 3D printers can even print types of metal, food materials, or biomaterials.

At the Wolcott Public Library, we have **PLA filament**, which is widely used and great for everyday printing.

## Why is my print rough? Why is there extra filament attached?

The 3D printer prints from the bottom up, so when it is directed to print in a place that is offset from the last layer printed, it prints support material. These are layers of filament that are easy to break off and remove from the desired object.

It may be necessary to use a file or sandpaper to remove supports, smooth, and finish your print.

## Why did my print fail?

Though we expect your object to print correctly, there is a chance that something goes wrong. There are many reasons this may happen, so we are happy to work with you to fix the problem and reprint your object.