Guide To 3D Printing at Frisco Public Library

Get Started:

Visit the 1st floor Ask Us desk to get started.

- Bring in your .STL or .OBJ file on a flash drive or saved to your cloud storage.
- Cost is 15 cents per gram of plastic.
- Object must complete printing before close.
- Recommended to design in millimeters.

Tech Notes:

- Maximum size: 8 in. x 6 in. x 6 in.
- Material: PLA plastic
- Printer: Ultimaker 2+
- Objects print in a single color
- File formats: .STL | .OBJ

3D Rules:

- Available on a first come, first serve basis
- Users must be at least 18 years of old and sign the liability waiver.
- Users must supervise projects while printing.
- Objects must be completed before library closing.
- The printers may only be used for lawful purposes and for objects appropriate for a public library environment.
- Objects must not infringe upon any third party's intellectual property rights.
- Object must not be illegal nor can they be construed as having the intent to harm.
- Staff is not available to supervise prints or make modifications to objects.

Some Common Questions:

What colors are available?

The selection of colors is subject to availability. The library frequently has the following colors on hand: white, red, and black.

How long does it take?

You can estimate print time using the Makerbot Desktop software: ultimaker.com

How will I know how much my object will weigh in order to estimate the cost?

You can estimate the weight of your object using the Cura software: ultimaker.com

How quickly can I learn how to use the Cura software?

Watch this video to learn the basics. Go in depth with this guide.

Can the library fix and edit my objects for me?

Library staff will help connect you with the right software so that you can make modifications.

I have never used a 3D printer. How can I quickly learn how to operate the printer?

We can teach you as you go. Here is the printer anatomy. You may want to read about common operations.

3D Design Online Tools and Help:

There are lot of freely available software and lessons available online. Here are a few:

Thingiverse - Find and download models other users have created and shared. Some models have the option to customise them so they suit your needs.

Tinkercad - The interactive lessons are perfect for the first time user! This free cloud based 3D modeling software will have you creating your own designs in just a few lessons.

FreeCAD - Advanced users will appreciate the power and depth of this software that can you download for free to your computer. Video tutorials

OnShape - Use either the cloud based software or as an app for iOS or Android devices. More sophisticated design tools than Tinkercad. Video tutorials

MeshMixer - Download this free software to sculpt, edit, and mix objects. Video tutorials

NASA - Take a look at NASA's selection of .stl files you can download and use for printing.

Simplify 3D - A great visual troubleshooting guide that covers all of the most common problems.

NetFabb - Fix models that have mesh errors and other flaws that prevent them from printing.