

3D Printing Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of plastic does the Cubicon use?

The PLA (polylactic acid) filament, is a thermoplastic, biodegradable, polyester made from corn starch. PLA is considered to produce designs with medium strength and medium durability. For further information, check the Wikipedia entry for [Polylactic acid](#).

What software does the 3D Printer use?

Cubicreator3 is the software used to prepare designs for printing with Cubicon 3D printers.

Can I scan and reproduce an existing object?

The 3D printer does not scan existing objects. You must download an existing design or create a custom design from scratch.

Where can I find pre-designed 3D objects to print?

Popular, open-source options include [Thingiverse](#), [Pinshapes](#), and [Instructables](#).

I want to create my own design. What software is available?

There are many software options available. Popular, open-source options include [Tinkercad](#), [Blender](#), [SketchUp](#) and [3D Slash](#).

What is the size restriction for my design?

The Cubicon Single+ print bed is 9 x 7 x 7.

Is my design file kept confidential?

Yes, we would never share your file with a third party without your consent.

What file formats are compatible with the 3D printer?

The Cubicon Single+ uses .stl files.

Is it possible to print in multiple colours?

The Cubicon Single+ can only print using one colour of filament at a time.

Can I paint my 3D printed object?

Yes! The PLA filament can be painted with acrylic, oil or spray paint. Sanding and priming your object is recommended before painting.

How long does it take to print an object?

Print time depends on the size and complexity of the design. A ping pong ball can take as little as 30 minutes and a basketball can take as long as 24 hours. The printer software provides an estimated print time before you begin printing.

Do I have to remain in the library until my print is complete?

You must stay in the library until the print is completed. It is possible an error may occur with a print job and you would have to start the print process again or revise the file.

How do I remove my object from the printer?

One of our staff members will remove the object for you.

Is your 3D printing considered safe for food?

We do not recommend using 3D printing products for food preparation or consumption. The nature of 3D printing is as such that when the layers are fused together there are some nooks and crannies left where you can't clean out the food particles properly and bacteria will grow.

Is my 3D printed object Microwave or Dishwasher safe?

The filament is sensitive to heat and not microwave or dishwasher safe. 3D printed objects can be hand washed in lukewarm water with mild anti-bacterial soap.

How do I dispose of the filament?

In Halton Region, compostable plastic can be placed in your garbage.

Is there a guarantee of quality?

We cannot guarantee the quality of prints. Library staff can help you optimize the print quality in regards to speed, infill, and supports.

Can I replace a broken machine part with a 3D printed part?

It depends on the part. A machine part that is designed to be exposed to direct and continuous sunlight, high temperatures or continuous stress should not be replaced with a 3D printed part because PLA is sensitive to heat and it can lead to failure of the equipment.

What if an error occurs when printing?

There will be times when a design will not work due to technical issues: The design isn't appropriate for the kind of printing process employed by the machine we have available, or the design might have flaws which makes it impossible to print successfully. We will do our best to identify these issues with you before moving forward with a print job. If an error occurs, please speak with a member of staff.