



SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC LIBRARY

3D Printing Policy

Santa Barbara Public Library (SBPL) is committed to learning and the exploration of ideas. As part of this mission, SBPL offers 3D printer access to community members of all ages. SBPL encourages its community members to exercise their imagination and enhance their freedom to create by learning about 3D printing technology.

SBPL's 3D printer is available to SBPL all-access library cardholders with accounts in good standing within SBPL's service area. It is also available to all-access card holders outside the service area with accounts in good standing. The 3D printers make three-dimensional objects from plastic using a design that is uploaded from an .stl file. SBPL most commonly uses PLA plastic, which is a biodegradable plastic.

USAGE GUIDELINES

1. SBPL's 3D printers may only be used for lawful purposes. Library cardholders cannot use our 3D printers to create material that is:
 - a. Prohibited by local, state or federal law.
 - b. Unsafe, harmful, dangerous or poses an immediate threat to the well-being of others. (Such use may violate the terms of use of the manufacturer). This includes weapons or life-like replicas, parts of weapons, ammunition, and defensive as well as offensive weapons.
 - c. Obscene or otherwise inappropriate for the Library environment.
 - d. In violation of another's intellectual property rights. For example, the printers will not be used to reproduce material that is subject to copyright, patent, or trademark protection.
2. Patrons are limited to requesting a maximum of three objects per month by means of one to three files per month.
 - a. Requests will not be processed when the number of submitted files exceeds the maximum limit.
3. Each print object cannot exceed 10 hours of printing.
4. 3D printing is currently free, but subject to change in the future.
5. The Library prioritizes printing at lower densities to maintain cost efficiency and for sustainability purposes.

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6. Library 3D printers prioritize speed over visual details and structural integrity. Free Library 3D printing services are not meant for engineering, mass-production, professional, or other complex applications.
7. If the Library cannot accommodate requests for 3D printing, there are paid services available locally and online.
8. Items must be picked up by the individual who requested them. Items printed that are not picked up within 30 days will be considered library property.
9. Only designated Library staff will have hands-on access to the 3D printer.
10. Guidelines governing the use of SBPL's 3D printers are subject to change.

PROCEDURE

The procedure for printing from SBPL's 3D printers is as follows:

1. Fill out the [SBPL 3D Printing Request Form](#) online with your name, library card number, contact information, object file, color choice, and any relevant information regarding the request.
 - a. Availability of colors is determined by the library's print reel inventory at the time of submission and/or inventory availability and cost from 3D print supply manufacturers.
 - b. SBPL reserves the right to deny requests for 3D printing if objects exceed the maximum build volume of the available 3D printers, exceed print time limits, or for any other reason not stated.
 - c. SBPL may postpone submissions based on time or material constraints.
2. SBPL will respond to all requests within three to five business days.
3. The file will be readied for printing in Cura or other authorized slicer software.
 - a. SBPL will review all files before printing.
 - b. SBPL reserves the right to resize 3D prints.
 - c. Special requests will be considered, but accommodation is not guaranteed.
 - d. SBPL does not offer customization services for objects (e.g., editing, slicing, or personalizing designs).
4. Printed items will be held for pickup at the Central Library.
 - a. SBPL will provide an email notice once a 3D print is ready for pickup.
5. Please allow at least 4 weeks for request completion

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