

3D POST- PRINTING TECHNIQUES

PAFSE: Partnerships for Science Education

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and for Society

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Topic: Open schooling and collaboration on science
education

Removing supports

- If your object has been printed with supports to help with stability during printing, you will need to remove them. Use pliers, x-atos or similar tools to carefully remove the supports, taking care not to damage the object.



Sanding

- Sanding is a technique used to smooth the surface of a 3D printed object.
- Use sandpaper of different grits to smooth out any imperfections or visible layers on the surface of the object.
- Start with coarse sandpaper and progress to finer grits until you get the texture you want.



Filling and leveling

- If there are small holes or imperfections on the surface of the object, you can fill them with modeling clay.
- Apply the material to the affected area and carefully level it with a spatula or similar tool.
- After filling, let the material dry and then sand it to obtain an even surface.

Solvent finishing

- For objects printed on PLA, solvents such as acetone can be used to get a smooth, glossy finish.
- The process involves applying acetone vapor in a chamber or steam bath. This slightly melts the surface of the object, smoothing out the visible layers. Be careful when handling acetone, as it is flammable and requires appropriate safety precautions.

Painting

- Painting is a popular technique for adding color and finish to 3D printed objects.
- You can use acrylic paints or other types of paint suitable for the material of the object.
- Before painting, be sure to sand and clean the surface of the object to ensure that the paint adheres properly.
- Use brushes or dipping techniques to apply the paint precisely.



Assembly

- If your object has been printed in several parts, you will need to assemble them.
- Use specific adhesives for bonding plastics, such as epoxy adhesives or cyanoacrylate (super glue), to join the parts.
- Make sure you align the pieces correctly and let the adhesive dry completely before touching the object.

Additional finishing

- In addition to the techniques mentioned above, you can also explore other finishing options, such as adding protective varnish, applying decorative stickers, inserting additional elements such as screws or magnets, or even carrying out polishing processes to achieve an extra shine.