Name	Method	Materials
Stereolithography (SLA)	Among the oldest of 3D printing methods, SLA was invented in the 1980s. It converts liquid plastic into solid objects and is typically used for prototyping.	Wide variety of liquid photocurable resins, including ceramic composites.
Fused Deposition Modelling (FDM)	Plastic threads, or filaments, are unwound from a coil and fed through an extrusion nozzle. The nozzle melts the filaments and extrudes them onto a base, sometimes called a 'build platform' or 'table'. Once printed, the object's support materials are removed either by soaking it in a water and detergent solution or, in the case of thermoplastic supports, snapping the support material off by hand. Objects may be sanded, milled, painted or plated to improve their function and appearance.	ABS plastic, Polylactic acid
Selective Laser Sintering (SLS)	Objects printed with SLS are made with powder materials, most commonly plastics such as nylon, which are dispersed in a thin layer on top of the build platform inside the machine. A computer-controlled laser pulses down on the platform, tracing a cross-section of the object onto the powder. The laser heats the powder either to just below its boiling point (sintering) or above it (melting), fusing the powder into a solid form.	Powdered polystyrene, ceramics, glass, nylon, metals (including steel, titanium, aluminium, and silver)
PolyJet photopolymer	PolyJet 3D printing is similar to inkjet document printing. Layers of liquid photopolymer are jetted onto a build tray and cured with UV light.	Hard Resins, clay, cement, silicone, Play-Doh