

There are a number of things that you can do with a file that you have created in Sketch-up. The most basic thing you might want to do is to simply save the Sketch-up file. Do this by going to the file menu and selecting “save”.

If you wish to share your drawing with someone who does not have or use Sketch-up, or if you wish to import your file into another program, you might want to save this drawing as an image file. If you wish to create an image file you will not use the save function, instead, you will use “export”. Click on file, then export. You will need to select 2D or 3D. For the purposes of this course, you will almost always use 2D. Next, select the type of image file you wish to save your file as. Jpg is very common, but bitmaps, tiffs and PNG files are also good options.

The files you create in sketch-up can also be exported to other CAD programs, 3D graphic programs, or even 3D printers and CNC machines. In order to have such functions though, you will need to install an extension. Sketch-up has a lot of future capability potential do to its use of extensions. An extension will add some function not currently available in sketch-up. The first extension that we will install today is the STL output extension. This will allow you to print your drawings out on a 3D printer.

Click in the “window” menu, then select “extension warehouse”. In the search window type “STL output” and click “enter”. This will search the extension warehouse for anything matching our search criteria. This returned a list of possibilities. The one that we want to install today, is the second one in the list, “sketch-up STL”. So I am going to click on this link, it gives me reviews, it tells me how many people are using this extension, it tells me how much space this extension is going to take up, and when it was created or last updated and various other information on it. So at this point I am going to click the “install” button. It is warning me that this is going to give access to other features of my computer, if you are not comfortable with this, you can click “no” and exit the installation. However, I am going to go ahead and click “yes”. I trust the author of this extension. And now it has been installed. You can see the extension was not a very large file, it only took a few seconds to install it. I am going to close out of this window. Now, if I go to my file menu, I have a new menu item, “export STL” that was not there before. So, if I click on “export STL”, it is going to ask me a couple of questions. I can select feet, inches, millimeters etc. I can select the output format that I want to export in. Then I can go ahead and click export and save this file.