

3D Printing vs. Injection Molding Plastics



3D Printing

Unit Volumes

1 - 50,000

Cosmetics

Requires
Secondary

Cycle Time

Days

Tooling Cost

\$0

Modifications

Print on Demand

Part Complexity

Low to High

Precision

Low to Medium

Repeatability

Low to Medium

Product Lifecycle - Ideal For

Prototyping

Validation

Bridge Production

Low to Mid-Volume Production

Obsolescence / Spare Parts

Injection Molding

Unit Volumes

100 -
100,000+

Cosmetics

Molded-In or
Secondary

Cycle Time

Weeks

Tooling Cost

\$5K - \$50,000+

Modifications

Requires Mold Modifications

Part Complexity

Low to High

Precision

High

Repeatability

High

Product Lifecycle - Ideal For

Validation

Bridge Production

Low to Mid-Volume Production

Spare Parts