

Protect Your Idea

Your idea might be valuable. You should take measures to protect your idea before you submit it for our evaluation, because we only accept them on a non-confidential basis.

Under the laws of the United States and most other countries, you may be able to protect your ideas by obtaining patents, trademarks, copyrights or as "trade secrets" (but only if you don't disclose them).

You should also be aware that a non-confidential disclosure of an invention to others prior to obtaining a patent may result in loss of potential patent rights in most countries.

So before you disclose your idea, you should consult a patent attorney for professional advice. The costs involved in obtaining such advice are solely your responsibility.

Some resources for obtaining additional information about intellectual property are listed below, and your attorney can provide additional information.

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Tel: (800) 786-9199

E-mail: independentinventor@uspto.gov

www.uspto.gov

(you can find a list of registered patent attorneys on the USPTO website)

European Patent Office

Tel: (+49 89) 23 99 - 0

www.european-patent-office.org

World Intellectual Property Organization

Tel: +41-22 338 9111

www.wipo.int