



IP Top Tips

Do you think you might get a patent?

If so make sure you...

Do	Don't
<p>Write down and date any important discoveries or findings you have. Even better if you can save these digitally and send them to yourself so you have a time and date stamp from when you first came up with your idea</p> <p>Learn to talk about your product in a way that someone can understand what makes your idea unique without having to explain the exact details of how your invention works</p> <p>Research potential cost and timelines of getting a patent. They're one of the most expensive forms of intellectual property and can take years before they are granted. Will a patent be worth investing in for your company?</p> <p>Speak to patent attorney, they will be able to give you advice on whether your idea could potentially be patented and can answer any questions you may have. Most patent attorneys will give you a free initial meeting before you pay them to do any work so make the most of the time you spend with them and come prepared.</p>	<p>Post photos of the patentable part of your design online or show these at an exhibition. When you file for a patent the patent office will search to see if there is any evidence of the patentable work online or in print at any point before you filed for a patent. Even if they can only find photos of your own work this could still stop you from having a patent granted</p> <p>File for a design right first. Even though it can be tempting to have some form of intellectual property for a fraction of the price of a patent. If you file for a design right before you file for a patent this counts as a public disclosure of your work and will stop you being able to file for a patent in the future.</p> <p>Avoid talking to anyone about your idea. There's lots that you can say without giving away exactly what makes your idea patentable. Speaking to other people can help give you valuable insight into your market and give you an idea of how well received your product may be.</p>