



PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

Protect Your Ideas!

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) registers trademarks based on the Commerce Clause of the Constitution (Article I, Section 8, Clause 3) to "promote the progress of science and the useful arts by securing for limited times to inventors the exclusive right to their respective discoveries."

The strength and vitality of your business depends on effective mechanisms that protect new ideas and investments in innovation and creativity.

What are Patents?

A patent is an intellectual property right granted by the U.S. Government to an inventor "to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States or importing the invention into the United States" for a limited time in exchange for public disclosure of the invention when the patent is granted. The types of patents one can apply for include:

Utility Patent:

- This is the most common type of patent. Utility patents may be granted to anyone who invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof.

Design Patent:

- These patents may be granted to anyone who invents a new, original and ornamental design for an article of manufacture.

Plant Patent:

- Plant patents are granted to anyone who invents or discovers and asexually reproduces any distinct new variety of plant.

To Learn More About Patents:

Information on the Patent Process:

<http://www.uspto.gov/pats/process/index.jsp>

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Support: (800)-786-9199 or
(571) 272-1000

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office web site: www.uspto.gov

Trademarks and Service Marks

A trademark is a brand name. A trademark or service mark includes any word, name, symbol, device, or any combination, used or intended to be used to identify and distinguish the goods/services of one seller or provider from those of others, and to indicate the source of the goods/services.

Although federal registration of a mark is not mandatory, it has several advantages, including notice to the public of the registrant's claim of ownership of the mark, legal presumption of ownership nationwide, and exclusive right to use the mark on or in connection with the goods/services listed in the registration.

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Office Customer Support:
(800)-786-9199

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