

SAMPLE – Intellectual Property - Article

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Ways to Protect Your Intellectual Property

Any creation of the mind that has commercial value needs to be protected from unscrupulous individuals who might want to use it for their own profit. Intellectual property rights give you legal ownership over your idea and act as a deterrent to offenders. Here are some practical options available to you to protect your intellectual property.

The first thing that you need to do is withhold essential information regarding the idea that is in your mind or on paper. You should exercise extra caution while sharing information in public forums, especially on the internet. If you are planning to share your idea with your associates through email, you should make sure that your account is protected by a strong password.

It is good to be personally aware of some of the basic intellectual property laws. This knowledge will help you shape your company's policies to guard your intellectual property and take actions against those who infringe it. For example, if you hire a team to further develop your idea, you can make the members of the team realize that what you are providing them is classified information. A good way of doing this is to make them sign non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), which will help you take legal action if the need arises.

However, it is also important to call in a legal expert to find out the detailed provisions available to you to protect your idea. These laws can often be quite complex and it is always better to rely on an intellectual property lawyer for these matters. The lawyer will be able to tell you how to patent or copyright your creation so that no infringement takes place.

You should also remember that the best time to approach an IP lawyer and apply for protection is when your idea is in the initial stages. Filing an early patent or copyright can save you from a lot of hassle in the future.