

## Top Tips For Inventors

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- Keep your idea to yourself!
  - If you publically disclose your idea before filing your patent application, you could invalidate your patent!
  - Use a confidentiality agreement if you do need to disclose before filing
- What sort of protection do you need?
  - Name, logo or brand – Registered Trade Mark
  - Product appearance or shape – Registered Design
  - Product concept, method of manufacture or use, or the way it works – Patent
- Is the idea patentable?
  - Is it new?
  - And not just an obvious development of what's already known?
- How do you know it's new? – do some searching!
  - Google for similar, commercially available ideas
  - Espacenet for patents – <http://gb.espacenet.com>
- Check out some information sources so you know what you are getting into
  - The Intellectual Property Office – [www.ipo.gov.uk](http://www.ipo.gov.uk)
  - Our website – [www.ip-active.com](http://www.ip-active.com)
- See a qualified patent attorney to discuss how to proceed

IP-Active.com has experience of acting for clients both large and small in intellectual property matters. Call 02476 992 662 today to arrange an initial consultation (which is usually free) with an experienced intellectual property attorney. We are based in Coventry at The TechnoCentre, on the Coventry University Technology Park