

Handsome I.P. Ltd

Intellectual Property Services

What are the various types of Intellectual Property?

What	Which	Criteria	How	When
Patents	Protect inventions – i.e. how things work. Can protect the thing itself or a method of doing something	Must be new and inventive and not excluded (such as a mathematical method)	Specification explaining invention must be filed at Patent Office along with various official forms	Must be kept confidential before the application is filed at the Patent Office. Lasts 20 years when granted
Designs	Protect the appearance of products	Must be new and of individual character	Application must be filed with pictures/drawings of product.	Can be filed up to 1 year after making the design public. Lasts up to 25 years
Trademarks	Words and/or logos that distinguish the origin of goods and/or services from others	Must be different from existing trademarks	Application must be filed with various official forms	Can be filed anytime. Last 10 years; renewable indefinitely
Copyright	Protects literature, drama, music, art, sound, films, databases	Must be original	Automatic, but best to assert your copyright by using © symbol etc.	Subsists automatically. Lasts for various time periods depending on type of copyright (e.g. 15 to 70 years)
Confidential Information/Trade Secrets	Anything that is not public knowledge	Not in public domain	Can only be protected by a Confidentiality or Non-Disclosure Agreement	Get Agreement signed before passing on the information. Can last indefinitely as long as information not in public domain

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