

# What is Patent Infringement?



As important as it is for patent holders to be on the lookout for infringement, it is also important for creators to be careful about infringing on others' patents.

Whether you're an entrepreneur, creator, or inventor it is important to know the answer to the following question: **what is patent infringement?**

## What is Patent Infringement?

Patent infringement is defined by the USPTO as when somebody "makes, uses, offers to sell, or sells any patented invention."



## Famous Examples

One of the most famous patent infringement cases was that of Apple vs. Samsung. This case was spurred by Apple suing Samsung in 2012 over the design of the company's smartphones. The case lasted 6 years and ended in 2018 when Apple was awarded \$539 million and Samsung was found to have infringed on multiple patents.

## What is the Penalty for Patent Infringement?

There may be many financial consequences from royalties to damages to long legal battles. Not only must the infringer pay damages in some form, but they will also likely have to stop making the product in question. The largest amount of money ever paid from a patent infringement case was \$2.5 billion in the Idenix v. Gilead Sciences Inc case.



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