

When to Make Patents a Priority

Even with cost-effective alternatives to patents, there may be situations in which the best option is to file for a patent as soon as you can. Creators should think about these questions as they embark on their journey:



Is the invention something that will be useful beyond 20 years?

Could another person or company reverse engineer the process?



Will someone discover or invent the same process in the near future?

Are aspects of the process or the product itself seen and/or observed in public settings?



Patents are similar to other types of intellectual property—first to file will prevail. If the invention is fairly easy to reverse engineer and it seems like someone else could also develop the process, it would be wise to move forward with the patent as soon as possible.

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