

# Patent Searching Basics

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The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) maintains a free, searchable database that is available at <http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/search/index.jsp>. Before applying for a patent, a search for similar inventions is recommended to determine whether a patent is viable. When starting a search, one of the first considerations should be determining the key features of your invention. ... [Continue Reading](#)