



INVENTION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Thank you for your interest in Techtronic Industries North America, Inc. (TTiNA) as a resource for pursuing your ideas. The following is provided for helping you decide if TTiNA is the right fit for you and your invention, and if so, for instructing you on how to submit your invention.

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE SUBMITTING AN INVENTION

Is your invention within the scope of our product lines?

First, please review our brands and tools to make sure that what you have is something in which we might have an interest. You can get started by visiting:

www.ttigroup.com/en/our_brands

In order to be considered, your invention must fit within or useful in association with one of our existing lines of power tools, power tools accessories, hand tools, or outdoor products.

Have you had a patent search performed?

A patent search will be very helpful in determining, among other things, whether your invention is potentially protectable, and whether there may be some potential infringement problems with existing “prior art” (a term used to refer to any patents, published patent applications, articles, advertisements, etc., that disclose a device that includes at least one feature that is “material” to the examination of your patent application). A patent practitioner (a patent attorney or agent) should guide you based on the results of your search as to whether you should continue to pursue your invention. Obviously we cannot choose how you do this or by whom, but we do suggest having an experienced patent searcher perform the search, even if you have searched yourself and have found nothing.

Have you applied for or obtained patent protection for your invention?

As a means for protecting both yourself and TTiNA, we request that all invention submissions be the subject of a pending patent application or issued patent. If you have filed a patent application, it will also be your responsibility to prosecute the application. If you have not yet applied for patent protection, or at least filed a provisional patent application, we suggest that you obtain patent counsel in order to take this very important step. TTiNA will not be responsible for any loss of rights due to a failure to file a patent application or prosecute any pending patent applications.

As will be discussed below, we cannot guarantee that any disclosure made to TTiNA will remain confidential. Therefore, any disclosure to TTiNA is considered a “public disclosure”. While we require a patent application to be filed for any submission made to TTiNA, TTiNA is not financially responsible for the filing and prosecution of the patent application(s), nor for the issuance and maintenance of the patent(s), unless otherwise agreed upon in subsequent license/purchase negotiations.

SUBMITTING AN INVENTION

Following is a brief list of documents that you will need to gather for submission:

1. DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT: Download, carefully read, and sign the “Disclosure Agreement”.
2. PROOF OF APPLICATION/PATENT: This can be any one of the following:
 - a. Copy of currently pending provisional or non-provisional application including: specification, claims (if any), drawings, filing receipt, and application status.
 - b. Publication Number if your patent application has been published.
 - c. Patent Number if your patent application has issued into a patent.
 - d. Confirmation that you have not sought patent protection and are not expecting compensation.
3. MATERIAL “PRIOR ART”: If you have had a patent search performed and prior art was discovered, or if you are otherwise aware of material prior art that you would be required to disclose to the USPTO, please provide that to us for our review.
4. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Additional materials are acceptable, but you should limit them to what has been disclosed in a patent application. Such materials might include a **BRIEF** video.
5. CONTACT INFORMATION: Provide your contact information for return communications.
6. EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION: Please provide information regarding your employer(s) at the time the invention was conceived and/or developed, and whether any employer has rights in your invention as a result of your employment.

Please note that any invention submissions made that do not include the required information will not be reviewed, but will be returned. This will be done to protect both yourself and TTiNA.

Make your submission either by email to:

InventionSubmission@ttigroupna.com

via USPS or other carrier to:

=OR=

Techtronic Industries North America, Inc.
ATTN: Patent Department - SOI
1428 Pearman Dairy Road
Anderson, SC 29625

WHAT NOT TO SEND:

1. An invention disclosure without a signed “Disclosure Agreement”
2. A prototype. This may be requested if there is an interest in pursuing your invention. However, we cannot be responsible for maintaining and/or returning unsolicited prototypes.

Once we have received the required information, we will review the submission to determine whether it meets our criteria for being added to one or more of our branded products. Depending on the volume of submissions received, it could take 3-4 months to receive a reply. We ask for your patience in this matter, but if you want to check on the status, please submit a status request in the same manner that you submitted your invention.

THANK YOU!

Thank you again for your interest in partnering with TTiNA. We trust that this process will help assure that both your interests and TTiNA's will be well-protected. We look forward to the opportunity to review your invention(s) with the same intensity and respect that we afford our own.

Respectfully,

The Intellectual Property Group at
Techtronic Industries North America, Inc.
1428 Pearman Dairy Road
Anderson, South Carolina, 29625

DISCLAIMERS

Nothing herein is intended to suggest that we have made any determination to pursue your idea, unless expressly stated otherwise.

Under the conditions set forth in the enclosed Disclosure Agreement, you reserve no rights against TTiNA, with respect to any disclosure you voluntarily submit to TTiNA. Your sole protection regarding any proprietary interest in the materials which are submitted to TTiNA is such protection as you may have independently acquired or will independently acquire under the Patent Laws of the United States or other country or countries.