

IP Rights Compared

Law

The main rights, what each protects, and for how long.

Right and what it covers.

Right	Protects	Typical duration
Copyright	Expression, not ideas	Life plus decades
Patent	Inventions that are new and inventive	About 20 years
Trade mark	Signs identifying origin	Renewable indefinitely
Design right	Appearance of a product	Limited term
Trade secret	Confidential information	While it stays secret

Educational reference. Copyright protects the expression of an idea, never the idea itself. Terms vary by jurisdiction.