



PATENTS



Stove



Faucet



Blender

Many high tech devices in our lives have been developed around a patented invention. In the kitchen, innovation revolves around safety, efficiency, and convenience. To ensure continued innovation and improvements in innovation, the patent office grants property rights to the inventor. Even something as ordinary as your gas stove, kitchen faucet, or blender may contain several patented components designed to help you make a great meal.

A patent lasts for about twenty years and during that period inventors can use their patent themselves or license the patent to others who want to use it with their own products. In exchange for that legal protection, the details of the new invention are published so researchers have the benefit of that breakthrough. Once the patent expires, anyone can use the invention free of charge.

Why are patents important?

Patents in the kitchen protect even the little changes in physical products that can make a big difference in the way we use them. For example, look at your stove. The basic purpose of the stove is to heat and cook food. Go back 100 years and you would still need to do that, but you would be doing it on an iron stove fueled by wood. Go back 1000 years and you might have been cooking over an open fire pit using a skewer.

Today we have combination convection/microwave ovens with sensitive thermometers, delayed cooking options, and even refrigeration. Incremental innovations have led to greater safety, convenience and efficiency in accomplishing the same goals. Along the way there have been important men and women who have created new technology which has been used to improve existing solutions. Those innovators' hard work earned patents awarded by the government; this, in turn, incentivizes creating new inventions.





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