

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**Q** What can happen if we infringe a U.S. patent?

**A** The patent owner can sue you (and possibly your customers) in federal court. The patent owner can ask for money damages and an injunction. These “damages” can exceed any profits you actually received from the infringement. If the infringement is deemed “willful,” the court can multiply the damages by up to 300% and make you pay some of the owner’s attorney fees. A court can also enjoin the accused product or activity, either after a judgment of infringement, or, in rare cases, while the suit is pending. If the infringing products are imported, the patent owner might bring an action in the International Trade Commission (ITC) seeking an order blocking future imports.

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