Prior Patent Search Guide

Step	Factor	Action	Tool/Example
1	Understand Idea	Break idea into parts, list keywords	Smart Dustbin → Sensor, Lid
2	Keyword Selection	Use synonyms & variations	"Auto bin" OR "Sensor trash can"
3	Boolean Search	Use AND, OR, "", - for smart search	"Smart bin" AND sensor -Bluetooth
4	Classification Codes	Use CPC/IPC codes from similar patents	Google Patents, USPTO
5	Search Databases	Search in multiple free platforms	Google Patents, Espacenet, WIPO
6	Non-Patent Literature	Explore research papers, blogs, reports	Google Scholar, ResearchGate
7	Study Existing Patents	Focus on claims, working, diagrams	Claims & Abstract section
8	Check Patent Status	Active or Expired patents	Patent Legal Status Tab
9	Analyze & Compare	Compare, modify, avoid exact copy	Innovate better design