

# Copyright Notice



We have put a lot of effort into developing our award-winning home designs to make them the best that we can, and we are proud of every one of them. Unfortunately, we have encountered some individuals who are building or selling homes based on our designs without our permission. This is not only unlawful, but also harmful for the hard-working planners and designers who work on our designs.

## What is the law?

Home plans and designs, and the homes which are built from them, are protected by copyright.

MyStyle Homes owns the copyright in the home designs available in our brochures and on our website. Copyright also extends to custom designs that we or our agents draft. This means that we have the exclusive right to:

- (a) modify the designs;
- (b) copy or distribute the designs; and
- (c) build a house from the designs.

When you contract with us to build your home, you are given permission for single use of this design to build your home. This ensures that you or anyone who may own your home in the future will enjoy the authentic design features for many years to come.

You do not have permission to use our designs just because the design is published on our website, in a brochure, or anywhere else.

If you do not have permission from us, you will infringe the copyright in our design and may be liable for damages. This applies to both the homeowner and the builder.

It does not matter whether or not you are aware that you are infringing our copyright. We recommend that you always check where your design has come from to make sure that you have permission to use it. This can be a warning sign: a reputable builder should be able to confirm with you that you (and they) have permission to use any design that you give them or that they propose.

## I really like your designs, but I want to use a different builder. Can I give your designs to them?

We are unable to let you just take and build our designs, as they represent valuable, intellectual property which we have created. Other builders are not permitted to copy and reuse our designs without proper permission. We are reluctant to litigate but may be forced to do so in some circumstances to protect the good will of our business which is represented in large part by the intellectual property in our designs.

## If I take the plan and just make some changes, will that make it okay?

There is a common belief that you will not infringe copyright if you change the original work by a certain amount (say 10%). This is a myth. Copyright will always exist no matter how much you change the design. In one case, the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia decided that even though there were differences in room sizes, window placing, wall alignments and cupboards between a new and old design, the new design infringed the copyright in the original design as it still substantially reproduced the original design.

## How do I get permission to use a design?

If you are a builder who would like to use one of our designs, or a homeowner looking to build one of our designs with a different builder, please contact us to discuss. Alternatively, if you are looking to build outside of our current build areas and wish to explore the possibility of purchasing a single use licence.

Please note: This information sheet is not legal advice and is not intended to be.

It's all about you...

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