

Use of Copyrighted Music in Videos

Video creators often use complimentary music when developing a video. This music may be a backdrop that plays during the entire video or used in snippets throughout the video. Either way, it is important that video creators have legal permission to use the music to avoid copyright infringement. The owner of the copyrighted music has the right to permit or exclude the use their music. Music used without permission can result in civil and criminal penalties as well as removal of your video from social media and other platforms.

Copyrighted Music:

Purchasing a song on iTunes or similar platforms does not give you the right to use the song when creating a video. To use music in your video, you must have permission from the owner of the musical track. In addition, you may owe a royalty payment each time the song is played (i.e. your video is played 10 times = you owe 10 royalty payments). To avoid these complications, use of royalty free music is recommended.

Royalty Free Music:

Royalty free music refers to songs that can be purchased for use in the video that do not require a royalty payment every time the song (in the video) is played. Royalty free music may require a one-time payment for permission to use the song in your video. To obtain permission, you must purchase a one-time license for use of the song in the video. If you plan to use the song in multiple videos, you may need to purchase multiple licenses.

How to find royalty free music:

Royalty free music is available online in numerous places, including those listed below. Be aware that royalty free music may still require a small one-time payment per song used in your video.

- **Free Music Archive:** <https://freemusicarchive.org>
- **PremiumBeat:** <https://www.premiumbeat.com>
- **Royalty Free Music:** <https://www.royaltyfree-music.com>
- **CSS Music:** <https://www.cssmusic.com/index.html>
- **HookSounds:** <https://www.hooksounds.com>
- **YouTube:** Database of royalty free music for use on YouTube

YouTube and Other Social Media Platforms:

YouTube scans uploaded videos to prevent videos and music from being posted without permission. If a copyright issue is found, YouTube may block the content. YouTube also has a three strikes policy meaning that if you receive three copyright violations over the course of any 90 days then your account will be terminated. Other social media platforms have similar policies. You should check the platform for up-to-date policies.