

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY DISCLOSURES

NOTICE TO SELLER AND PURCHASER

The Virginia Residential Property Disclosure Act (§ 55-517 et seq. of the *Code of Virginia*) governs the information owners must disclose to prospective purchasers of real property. Certain transfers of residential property are excluded from the requirements (see § 55-518).

1. **CONDITION:** The owner(s) makes no representations or warranties as to the condition of the real property or any improvements thereon, and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary including obtaining a certified home inspection, as defined in § 54.1-500, in accordance with the terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement on the parcel of residential real property.
2. **ADJACENT PARCELS:** The owner(s) makes no representations with respect to any matters that may pertain to parcels adjacent to the subject parcel, and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary with respect to adjacent parcels in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement on the parcel of residential real property.
3. **HISTORIC DISTRICT ORDINANCES(S):** The owner(s) makes no representations to any matters that pertain to whether the provisions of any historic district ordinance affect the property, and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary with respect to any historic district designated by the locality pursuant to §15.2-2306, including review of any local ordinance creating such district or any official map adopted by the locality depicting historic districts, in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement on the parcel of residential real property.
4. **RESOURCE PROTECTION AREAS:** The owner(s) makes no representations with respect to whether the property contains any resource protection areas established in an ordinance implementing the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§ 10.1-2100 et seq.) adopted by the locality where the property is located pursuant to § 10.1-2109, and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary to determine whether the provisions of any such ordinance affect the property, including review of any official map adopted by the locality depicting resource protection areas, in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement on the parcel of residential real property.

5. **SEXUAL OFFENDERS:** The owner(s) makes no representations with respect to information on any sexual offenders registered under Chapter 23 (§ 19.2-387 et seq.) of Title 19.2, and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary with respect to such information, in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement pursuant to that contract.
6. **DAM BREAK INUNDATION ZONE(S):** The owner(s) makes no representations with respect to whether the property is within a dam break inundation zone and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary with respect to whether the property resides within a dam break inundation zone, including a review of any map adopted by the locality depicting dam break inundation zones.
7. **STORMWATER DETENTION:** The owner(s) makes no representations with respect to the presence of any stormwater detention facilities located on the property and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary to determine the presence of any stormwater detention facilities on the property, in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement pursuant to that contract.
8. **WASTEWATER SYSTEM:** The owner(s) makes no representations with respect to the presence of any wastewater system, including the type or size thereof or associated maintenance responsibilities related thereto, located on the property and the purchaser(s) is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser(s) deems necessary to determine the presence of any wastewater system on the property, in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event, prior to settlement pursuant to that contract.

Additional Written Disclosure Requirements

FIRST SALE OF A DWELLING: Section 55-518.B. contains other disclosure requirements for transfers involving the first sale of a dwelling because the first sale of a dwelling is exempt from the disclosure requirements listed above. The builder of a new dwelling shall disclose in writing to the purchaser thereof all known material defects which would constitute a violation of any applicable building code.

PLANNING DISTRICT 15: In addition, for property that is located wholly or partially in any locality comprising Planning District 15, the builder or owner, if the builder is not the owner of the property, shall disclose in writing whether the builder or owner has any knowledge of (i) whether mining operations have previously been conducted on the property or (ii) the presence of abandoned mines, shafts, or pits, if any.

The disclosures required by this subsection shall be made by a builder or owner (i) when selling a completed dwelling, before acceptance of the purchase contract or (ii) when selling a dwelling before or during its construction, after issuance of a certificate of occupancy. Such disclosure shall not abrogate any warranty or any other contractual obligations the builder or owner may have to the purchaser. The disclosure required by this subsection may be made on this disclosure form. If no defects are known by the builder to exist, no written disclosure is required by this subsection.

Section 55-519.1 contains a disclosure requirement for properties located in any locality in which there is a military air installation.

Section 32.1-164.1:1 contains a disclosure requirement regarding the validity of septic system operating permits.

See also the Virginia Condominium Act (§ 55-79.39 et seq.), the Virginia Cooperative Act (§ 55-424 et seq.) and the Virginia Property Owners' Association Act (§ 55-508 et seq.).