



## SUMMARY OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF SELLERS AND PURCHASERS UNDER THE VIRGINIA RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY DISCLOSURE ACT



Virginia's Residential Property Disclosure Act (the "Act") (Virginia Code § 55.1-700 et seq.) requires real estate licensees to inform the parties to a transaction with whom they deal of their rights and obligations under the Act. The licensee providing this information to you is prepared to answer any questions you may have about what the Act means to you, and to furnish you with a copy of the Act at your request.

The Act applies to sales, exchanges, installment sales, or leases with option to purchase of residential real property improved with one to four dwelling units. The Act does not apply to: transfers pursuant to court order (estate administration, pursuant to writ execution, foreclosure, bankruptcy, condemnation, or by decree for specific performance); transfers among co-owners; transfers among spouses; transfers among parents or grandparents and their children or grandchildren; tax sales; transfers involving a government or housing authority; or (subject to certain exceptions discussed below) sales of new homes.

The Act requires sellers to furnish purchasers with a disclosure statement developed by the Virginia Real Estate Board. The statement must be furnished to the purchaser before final ratification of the purchase contract or the purchaser may terminate the contract or sue later for damages. The disclosures will be current as of the date of delivery. The seller will not be required to provide updated or additional disclosures if a transaction pursuant to a ratified real estate contract proceeds to settlement after the effective date of legislation amending any of the disclosures under § 55.1-700, provided that the correct disclosures were delivered under the law in effect at the time of delivery. The statement will direct purchasers to the **RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY DISCLOSURES** webpage ([http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/Consumers/Residential\\_Property\\_Disclosures/](http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/Consumers/Residential_Property_Disclosures/)) for important information about the real property. Purchasers are advised to consult the webpage.

A seller, in furnishing a disclosure statement, makes no representations or warranties as to the condition of the property or any improvements located thereon nor with respect to the matters set forth and described at the **RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY DISCLOSURES** web page ([http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/Consumers/Residential\\_Property\\_Disclosures/](http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/Consumers/Residential_Property_Disclosures/)). Purchaser is advised to exercise whatever due diligence purchaser deems necessary, including a home inspection, as defined in Virginia Code § 54.1-500, in accordance with the terms and condition of the purchase contract, but in any event prior to settlement.

A builder of a new home must disclose to a purchaser in writing all known material defects which would constitute a violation of any applicable building code. In addition, for property located wholly or partially in any locality comprising Planning District 15 (the City of Richmond, the Town of Ashland, and the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, and Powhatan), the builder (or seller, if the owner is not the builder) shall disclose in writing whether mining operations have previously been conducted on the property or the presence of any abandoned mines, shafts or pits. This disclosure does not abrogate any warranty or other obligations the builder may have to the purchaser, and must be made (i) when selling a completed home, before acceptance of the purchase contract, or (ii) when selling a home before or during construction, after issuance of a certificate of occupancy. No disclosure or statement of any kind is required if there is no such information to disclose. Any required disclosure may be, but need not be, contained in the disclosure statement described in this summary.

A purchaser must be furnished with a disclosure statement signed by the seller prior to final ratification of the purchase contract. If such statement is received after final ratification, the purchaser's sole remedy shall be to terminate the purchase contract by sending written notice to the seller either by hand delivery or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, at or prior to the earliest of (i) three days after receiving the statement (if delivered in person); (ii) five days after postmark (if sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid); (iii) settlement; (iv) occupancy by purchaser; (v) purchaser's making written application for a mortgage loan if such application discloses that the termination right ends upon application; (vi) purchaser's execution of a written waiver of the right to terminate (such waiver may not be in the purchaser contract).

If the seller fails to provide the required disclosure statement, the contract may be terminated as set forth above. If the seller fails to provide the required disclosure statement, or the seller misrepresents, willfully or otherwise, the information required in such disclosure, except as a result of information provided by the locality in which the property is located, the purchaser may bring an action to recover actual damages suffered as a result of such violation. No purchaser of property located in a noise zone designated on the official zoning map of the locality as having a day-night average sound level of less than 65 decibels shall have a right to maintain an action for such damages. Any such action must be brought within one year of the date the purchaser received the disclosure statement. If no disclosure statement was provided to the purchaser, the action must be brought within one year of the date of settlement, or purchaser's occupancy of the property by lease with option to purchase.

Purchasers should be aware that neither a seller nor a real estate licensee is obligated to disclose facts or

occurrences which have no effect on the physical structure of the property, its physical environment, or the improvements located thereon, or the fact that the property was the site of a homicide, felony, or suicide. Furthermore, it is a violation of federal law to disclose whether a previous occupant of the property was afflicted with the HIV virus or has AIDS. Purchasers should be aware that in providing a disclosure statement:


- (a) The owner is making no representations or warranties as to the condition of the real property or any improvements thereon, or with regard to any covenants and restrictions, or any conveyance of mineral rights, as may be recorded among the land records affecting the real property or any improvements thereon. Purchasers should exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary, including obtaining a home inspection and a residential building energy analysis as defined in § 54.1-1144, in accordance with the terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract.
- (b) The owner is making no representations with respect to any matters that may pertain to parcels adjacent to the subject property, including zoning classification or permitted uses of adjacent parcels. Purchasers should exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary with respect to adjacent parcels in accordance with the terms and conditions of the purchase contract, but in any event prior to settlement on the subject property.
- (c) The owner makes no representations as to any matters that pertain to whether the provisions of any historic district ordinance affect the property. Purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary with respect to any historic district designated by the locality pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2306, including review of any local ordinance creating such district or any official map adopted by the locality depicting historic districts, any materials available from the locality that explain any requirements to alter, reconstruct, renovate, restore, or demolish buildings or signs in the local historic district and the necessity of any local review board or governing body approvals prior to doing any work on a property located in a local historic district, in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the purchase contract, but in any event prior to settlement on the property.
- (d) The owner makes no representations with respect to whether the property contains any resource protection areas established in an ordinance implementing the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§ 62.1-44.15:67 et seq.) adopted by the locality where the property is located pursuant to Virginia Code § 62.1-44.15:74. Purchasers should exercise whatever due diligence they deem 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 purchase contract, but in any event prior to settlement on the property.
- (e) The owner makes no representations with respect to information on any sexual offenders registered under Chapter 23 (§ 19.2-387 et seq.) of Title 19.2. Purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary with respect to such information, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the purchase contract, but in any event prior to settlement. Such information may be obtained by contacting the local police department or the Department of State Police, Central Criminal Records Exchange, at (804) 674-2000, or on the Internet at <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor/>.
- (f) The owner makes no representations with respect to whether the property is within a dam break inundation zone. Purchaser is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser 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.
- (g) The owner 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 is advised to exercise whatever due diligence the purchaser deems necessary to determine the presence of any wastewater system on the property and the costs associated with maintaining, repairing, or inspecting any wastewater system, including any costs or requirements related to the pump-out of septic tanks, 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.
- (h) The owner makes no representations with respect to any right to install or use solar energy collection devices on the property.
- (i) The owner makes no representations with respect to whether the property is located in one or more special flood hazard areas and purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary, including (i) obtaining a flood certification or mortgage lender determination of whether the property is located in one or more special flood hazard areas, (ii) reviewing any map depicting special flood hazard areas, (iii) contacting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or visiting the website for FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program or the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Flood Risk Information, and (iv) determining whether flood insurance is required, 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 such contract.
- (j) The owner makes no representations with respect to whether the property is subject to one or more conservation or other easements and that purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence a particular purchaser deems necessary 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 such contract; and
- (k) The owner makes no representations with respect to whether the property is subject to a community development authority approved by a local governing body pursuant to Article 6 (§ [15.2-5152](#) et seq.) of Chapter 51 of Title 15.2 of the Virginia Code and that purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence a particular purchaser deems

necessary in accordance with terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, including determining whether a copy of the resolution or ordinance has been recorded in the land records of the circuit court for the locality in which the community development authority district is located for each tax parcel included in the district pursuant to Virginia Code § [15.2-5157](#), but in any event, prior to settlement pursuant to such contract.

- (l) The seller represents that there are no pending enforcement actions pursuant to the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (§ 36-97 et seq.) that affect the safe, decent and sanitary living conditions of the property of which the seller has been notified in writing by the locality, nor any pending violation of the local zoning ordinance that the seller has not abated or remedied within the time period set out in the written notice of violation from the locality or established by a court of competent jurisdiction, except as set out in the disclosure statement.
- (m) The seller makes no representations with respect to whether the property is located on or near deposits of marine clays (marumscos soils), and purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence a particular purchaser deems necessary in accordance with the terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, including consulting public resources regarding local soil conditions and having the soil and structural conditions of the property analyzed by a qualified professional.
- (n) The seller makes no representations with respect to whether the property is located in a locality classified as Zone 1 or Zone 2 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Map of Radon Zones, and purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary to determine whether the property is located in such a zone, including (i) reviewing the EPA's Map of Radon Zones or visiting the EPA's radon information website; (ii) visiting the Virginia Department of Health's Indoor Radon Program website; (iii) visiting the National Radon Proficiency Program's website; (iv) visiting the National Radon Safety Board's website that lists the Board's certified contractors; and (v) ordering a radon inspection, in accordance with the terms and conditions as may be contained in the real estate purchase contract, but in any event prior to settlement pursuant to such contract.
- (o) The seller makes no representations with respect to whether the property contains any pipe, pipe or plumbing fitting, fixture, solder, or flux that does not meet the federal Safe Drinking Water Act definition of "lead free" pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300g-6, and purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary to determine whether the property contains any pipe, pipe or plumbing fitting, fixture, solder, or flux that does not meet the federal Safe Drinking Water Act definition of "lead free", 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 such contract.
- (p) The seller makes no representations with respect to the existence of defective drywall on the property, and purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary to determine whether there is defective drywall 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 such contract. For purposes of this paragraph, "defective drywall" means the same as that term is defined in Virginia Code § 36-156.1.
- (q) The seller makes no representation with respect to the condition or regulatory status of any impounding structure or dam on the property or under the ownership of the common interest community that the owner of the property is required to join, and purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence a particular purchaser deems necessary to determine the condition, regulatory status, cost of required maintenance and operation, or other relevant information pertaining to the impounding structure or dam, including contacting the Department of Conservation and Recreation or a licensed professional engineer.

If the property is located in a locality in which a military air installation is located, the seller must provide purchasers with a disclosure statement setting forth whether the property is located in a noise zone or accident potential zone, or both, if so designated on the official zoning map of the locality. Such disclosure shall state the specific noise or accident potential zone, or both, in which the property is located.

Please acknowledge receiving a copy of this summary by signing below.

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