

PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE

This notice provides information regarding three important property tax issues: **(1)** the homestead declaration, **(2)** property tax adjustment, and **(3)** the Use Value Appraisal Program.

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION

IMPORTANT: Homestead Declarations **MUST** be filed **EACH YEAR**. If you are a Vermont resident and own and occupy a Vermont dwelling as your principal residence on April 1, 2014, you must file a Homestead Declaration, Form HS-122. The homestead declaration must be filed even if the due date of April 15 has passed. The declaration is necessary so that your property is charged the Homestead tax rate, and is a prerequisite to a property tax adjustment.

New for 2015: Change in the definition of a homestead The law relating to Homestead Declarations will change in 2015. Starting next year, to claim a residence as your homestead, it must be your domicile for a minimum of 183 days out of the calendar year, in addition to the other requirements.

PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT CLAIM

Homestead owners may be eligible for a Property Tax Adjustment based on their housesite value and their income. The property tax adjustment is a credit applied against your property tax bill. The credit is reflected on your 2014/2015 property tax bill as a state payment. Property Tax Adjustment Claims are made to the Department of Taxes by filing Form HS-122, Section B. To be eligible for a Property Tax Adjustment Claim, you must **(1)** have been a Vermont resident all of calendar year 2013; **(2)** not have been claimed as a dependent for tax year 2013; **(3)** have owned and occupied the property as your principal residence on April 1, 2014; and **(4)** have the property declared as homestead on the 2014 grand list. You may be eligible for a property tax adjustment even if you do not have a requirement to file a Vermont income tax return. Visit our website at www.tax.vermont.gov or call 1-866-828-2865 for more information.

PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT CLAIMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE OCTOBER 15, 2014 DEADLINE

VERMONT USE VALUE APPRAISAL PROGRAM

Owners of agricultural or forest land may be eligible to have the land taxed at a lower use value rather than the fair market value. At least 25 contiguous acres are required for enrollment, but there are some special eligibility criteria for small active agricultural parcels. Enrolled farm buildings are exempt from all property taxes. A lien is placed on the enrolled land, and if a change in use occurs, you may be assessed a Land Use Change Tax. *For program eligibility for the 2015 grand list, applications are due by September 1, 2014 and forest management plans by October 1, 2014.* For further information and applications, go to www.tax.vermont.gov/pvrcurrentuse.shtml or www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forresmgmnt.cfm or contact Property Valuation and Review at 802-828-5860, x1. Applications are also available by contacting the Department of Taxes forms request line toll-free at 1-855-297-5600.

ASSISTANCE & ORDERING FORMS

For assistance call 1-866-828-2865 (toll-free in VT) or 802-828-2865 (local or out-of-state).

For forms, e-mail taxforms@state.vt.us or call toll-free in the U.S. at 1-855-297-5600.

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