

VA Renovation - Borrowers Acknowledgment

Condition of Property: I understand that the property I am purchasing is not VA approved and VA does not warrant the condition or the value of the property. I understand the VA plan review (where performed) and the appraisal are performed to determine compliance with the required architectural exhibits and to estimate the value of the property, but neither guarantees the house is free of defects. I understand I was responsible to have an independent consultant and/or a professional home inspection service perform an inspection of the property and the cost of the inspection was (or could be) included in the mortgage.

Loan Requirements

- I understand at the time of the loan closing of a VA Rehabilitation Loan, for which I have applied to my lender, the proceeds designated for the rehabilitation or improvement (including a contingency reserve, mortgage payments and any other fees, where applicable) are to be placed in an interest bearing escrow account. The Rehabilitation Escrow Account is not, nor will it be treated as an escrow for the paying of real estate taxes, insurance premiums, delinquent notes, ground rents or assessments. I hereby request the lender, after the Final Release Notice is issued, to:
 - Pay the net interest income directly to me/us.
 - Apply the net interest income directly to the mortgage principal balance for an equal amount of principal reduction.
 - Other: _____
- I understand that the Rehabilitation Escrow Account will cease paying interest to me if (1) the loan payments are delinquent for more than 30 days; or (2) the completion date (or an approved extension) has expired. During this period, the interest will be paid down on the mortgage principal. I understand if I clear up the delinquent or default status and/or the completion date has not expired or an extension has been approved, then the interest on the escrow account will begin again to be paid according to the request above.
- I understand no draws on the escrow account can be made until all permits have been issued by the local or state building departments, where required.
- I further understand I can only request monies for the actual cost of rehabilitation. If any cost savings result on any line item of the Draw Request, the amount saved must be used to: (1) Make further improvements to the property; (2) Pay for cost overruns in other line items of the Draw Request; or (3) Prepay the mortgage principal.
- I understand the contractor(s) is responsible to complete the work described in the architectural exhibits in a workmanlike manner. If I agree the work has been properly completed, I will sign the Draw Request, thereby accepting the responsibility that the completed work is acceptable and payment is justified. I understand there is a 10 percent holdback on each Draw Request to assure the work is properly completed and for lien protection.
- I understand I am responsible to negotiate any and all agreements with the contractor(s) I select and that VA suggests that the Agreement with the contractor should include a provision for binding arbitration with the American Arbitration Association on any dispute.
- I understand if I am using the Escrow Commitment Procedure, I must sign form HUD-314. The funds deposited in an escrow, trust or special account will not be released until an assumption of the loan occurs by a creditworthy buyer or until the time allowed for such assumption has expired, thereby requiring the funds to be paid down on the mortgage principal.
- I understand if I change a contractor for any reason, I may be obligated under the terms of the original contractor's agreement and I should seek legal advice before taking such action. If I disagree with the contractor regarding the acceptable completion of the work, I can request an inspection by the fee inspector to determine if the work has been properly completed. If an agreement cannot be made with the contractor, the lender may hold the money until such time as an agreement is reached or an arbitrator's decision is rendered.
- I understand the lender or VA does not provide a one-year warranty on the completed work on the property. I am responsible to obtain such warranty(s) from the contractor(s) and the warranty should be stated in the Homeowner-Contractor Agreement.
- I understand I am responsible to make the mortgage payments during the term of the loan, including the rehabilitation period, to ensure the property will not go into default. The construction on the home must start within 30 days; if the construction ceases for more than 30 days, the lender may consider the loan in default or the lender can use the escrow money to have the work completed. If the work stops or is not progressing as it should, or if the work does not comply with the accepted architectural exhibits, the lender may require additional compliance inspections to protect the security of the loan and I will be responsible to pay for the inspections and the cost of the inspection may be withheld at the next draw request.
- I understand no changes to the architectural exhibits can be made without the acceptance of the lender (or VA) on form HUD-92577. The contingency fund is set up for changes that affect the health, safety, or items of necessity of the occupants of the property. If the contingency reserve is insufficient, I must place additional monies into the account for payment upon acceptance of the change. Additional improvements can be made after it is determined no further health and safety items exist. A change order will be made to assure the monies are available to the contractor upon completion of the changed work.
- I understand if there are unused contingency funds, mortgage payments, inspection fees or other monies in the Rehabilitation Escrow Account after the Final Release is processed, the lender, in compliance with VA regulations, must apply those funds to prepay the mortgage principal, provided those items are a part of the mortgage.
- I understand the lender may retain the 10 percent holdback, for a period not to exceed 35 days (or the time period required by law to file a lien, whichever is longer), to ensure compliance with state lien waiver laws or other state requirements. Upon completion of the work, I understand I will be provided: (1) The Final Draw Request; (2) The Final Release Notice; and (3) An accounting of the final distribution of all funds.

This statement must be delivered to you prior to closing the loan. Return one copy to your lender as proof you have read the entire document. Keep one copy for your records. You, the borrower(s), must be certain that you understand this information. Sign here only after you have read this entire document. Seek professional advice if you are uncertain.

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I, the lender, certify this information was delivered to the borrower(s) prior to the time of loan closing.

Lender Signature & Date