

How to fill out VT-020 — Vermont Title Bond

Vermont - written against VT-020 (07/2024), issued under 23 V.S.A. s. 2020, withholding of certificate and bond required, and s. 3813 for vessels, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles; affirmed under penalties of 23 V.S.A. s. 202 and s. 203

/forms/vermont/vt020-vermont-title-bond/

The route for a vehicle whose previous title exists somewhere and cannot be obtained. It is a three-party surety bond running for three years, and it is open only to a Vermont resident - s. 2020(2) closes it to non-residents in its own last sentence. The number that decides whether it is worth doing is on page three: the bond must be one and one-half times the J.D. Power average trade-in value, which is a different figure from the clean trade-in value the tax is worked on.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank VT-020 from the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles, Agency of Transportation at https://dmv.vermont.gov/sites/dmv/files/documents/VT-020-Title_Bond.pdf — always take the current revision from the agency rather than a copy. Print this and keep it beside you while you complete theirs.

Every line, in the order you meet it

1	YOU	The owner's name, town and county	Written into the opening sentence of the bond, not into a labelled box. Watch out: County, not town, in the third space. Vermont has fourteen and the department checks the one you name against the address on the application.
2	OTHER	The surety's name, town and county	The company writing the bond, and where it sits. Watch out: You are not choosing this from a list on the DMV website. A surety agent writes it, and the form has to say which state's laws the company exists under.
3	OTHER	The sum of the bond	One and one-half times the J.D. Power average trade-in value of the vehicle. Watch out: Get the value from the department's own tax estimator on myDMV before you ask for a quote, so the number on the bond and the number on the supervisor's tick are the same number.
4	YOU	Year, Make, Model, Serial #	The vehicle being bonded, in the small table halfway down the first page. Watch out: The serial number here has to match the VT-010 verification exactly. Those two documents are read side by side.
5	YOU	The execution date	Day, month and year, written into the closing sentence. Watch out: This is the date the three years run from, so it is the date the brand comes off - not the date you registered the car.
6	YOU	Witness, Signature of Owner, Owner's Vermont License #	A witness rather than a notary, and your licence number beside your signature. Watch out: The witness cannot be the surety's agent, who signs the row below on their own account. Bring somebody neutral.
7	OTHER	Authorized Agent of Surety	The surety company's signature, witnessed in turn. Watch out: Nothing you do makes this row happen. If no surety will write the bond, the bonded route is closed and the answer is to keep chasing the previous title.
8	YOU	Page 2, the explanation panel	Why the proper ownership documents are unavailable, in detail. Watch out: Write it out on a separate sheet first. "Previous owner unreachable" is not detail; three dated attempts, two letters and a returned envelope are.
9	YOU	Page 2, Owner Signature, Date and Vermont License #	The affirmation under s. 202 and s. 203, on the second page. Watch out: Both sides of the form must be completed. A bond signed on page one and left blank on page two is the single most common return.

What gets this one rejected

- Any erasure, alteration or strikeout anywhere on the form. Condition 5 says the application will be rejected if the completed form contains one.
- An explanation on page 2 that is not detailed. The department says the section must be completed in detail or the form will be returned, and warns that it may result in an investigation.
- No evidence of a reasonable attempt. If you show by letters from the issuing state that the title, or a replacement, is unavailable, the department will consider the application - which is the department telling you what evidence it wants.
- A bond struck at the wrong value. It must be one and one-half times the J.D. Power average trade-in value, and the supervisor's block has a tick for exactly that check.
- A non-resident applicant. Section 2020(2) ends with the sentence: the Commissioner shall not issue titles to nonresidents under the provisions of this subdivision.
- Missing companions. Condition 6 lists four: a completed VD-119, a completed VT-010, ownership documentation such as a bill of sale or old registration certificates, and the fees due for registration, tax and title.

☒ Amber is what you write ☐ Grey is a block somebody else completes The completed example follows overleaf.



DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Agency of Transportation

120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05603-0001
dmv.vermont.gov

1 KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS: That Ambrose L. Deveneau of
(Name of Owner)

Swanton in the County of Franklin and the State of Vermont, as principal, and the
2 Otter Creek Indemnity Company of Burlington, County of Chittenden in the County of
(Name of Surety)

a corporation authorized and existing under the laws of the State of Vermont, and authorized to do business in the State
of Vermont, as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto the people of the State of Vermont and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for
3 the State of Vermont in the sum of \$6,225.00 good and lawful money and faithful observance of the provisions of this
instrument, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns firmly by these presents.

THE CONDITIONS OF THIS OBLIGATION ARE SUCH, that whereas, the above bounden Ambrose L. Deveneau
(Name of Owner)

desires to title and register a vehicle, trailer, vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle described as a

Year	Make	Model	Length (boat)	Serial #
<u>2004</u>	<u>CHEVROLET</u>	<u>Silverado</u>		<u>2GCEK13T241260938</u>

in the State of Vermont, without meeting the full requirements as set forth under 23 V.S.A. § 2015 and § 3808.

NOW, THEREFORE, the conditions of the above obligation are such that the above bounden Otter Creek Indemnity Company
(Name of Surety)

shall settle any claim or claims for expense, loss, or damage, including reasonable attorney's fees, by reason of the issuance of the
Certificate of Title and registration of the vehicle, trailer, vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle described above or on account of any
defect in or undisclosed security interest upon the right, title, and interest of the bounden in and to said vehicle/vessel, under the provisions
of 23 V.S.A. § 2020 and § 3813.

THIS OBLIGATION SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR three years from the date of execution unless released prior thereto by the
Commissioner of Motor Vehicles by reason of full compliance with the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 2015 and § 3808.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE ABOVE-BOUNDED Ambrose L. Deveneau, as principle and the
Otter Creek Indemnity Company, as Surety, have caused this obligation to be duly executed under their hand and seal, duly
5 attested for and on their behalf the 21st day of August, 2026 IN PRESENCE OF

6

Witness

Signature of Owner

Owner's Vermont License #

Witness

Authorized Agent of Surety

THE REVERSE SIDE/NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED

VERMONT TITLE BOND (Vermont Residents Only)

Please explain, in detail below, why proper ownership documents are unavailable. This information may result in an investigation or your application being returned for additional details.

This section must be completed in detail, or the form will be returned.

I hereby affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the information contained on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. This declaration is made under penalties of 23 V.S.A. § 202 & § 203

1

Ambrose Deveneau

Owner Signature

08/21/2026

Date

58017423

Vermont License #

2

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Supervisor's Review

☐ APPROVED
☐ NOT APPROVED

NCIC Neg ☐
 Bond Amt OK ☐
 Previous Vermont Title ☐ Yes ☐ No

3

REASON:

Printed Name | DMV Supervisor

Signature | DMV Supervisor

Date