

Where's my Vermont Income Tax Refund?

We understand that you want your Vermont personal income tax refund as quickly as possible. Perhaps you've already received your federal tax refund from the IRS and wonder when you'll receive your Vermont tax refund. There are a number of factors that can add days—and even weeks—to normal processing time. This fact sheet will cover the most common factors and provide guidance on what you can do to make processing your refund go more smoothly and quickly.

Check Your Refund Status Online

You can check the status of your refund by selecting Check the Status of Your Return located on the [myVTax homepage \(https://www.myvtax.vermont.gov/\)](https://www.myvtax.vermont.gov/).

Please wait at least 72 hours for e-filed returns and 8-10 weeks for paper-filed returns before checking the status of your refund. To find out if your refund has been issued, you must enter your 1) last name, 2) Social Security Number, 3) ZIP code, and 4) requested refund amount.

This service will provide the current status of your return, such as the following:

- We've received your return (with date received)
- We're processing your return
- We've requested additional information (with date of request)
- We've received your additional information
- We've released your refund (with date of release)

Factors That Can Add Time to Processing Your Refund

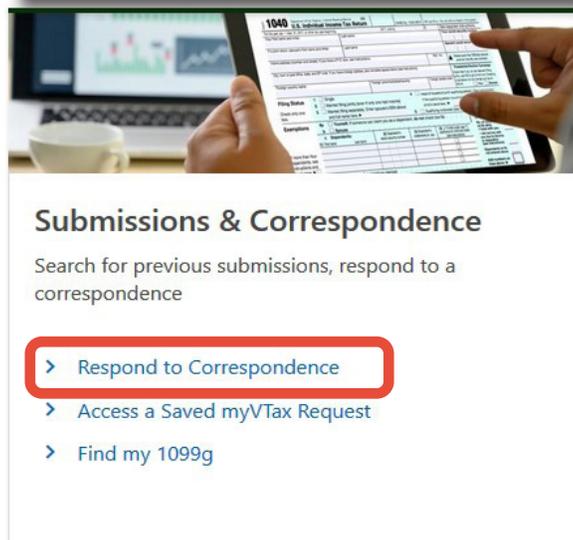
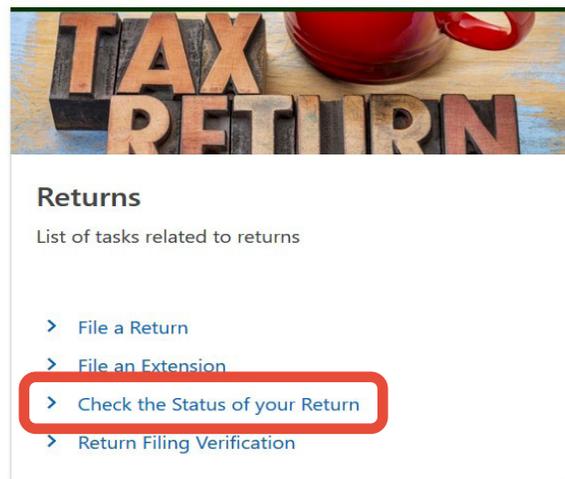
Missing Information

If your return is missing information, forms, or schedules, we

will send you a letter with details of what we need from you. You may submit information to the Department through myVTax by selecting Respond to Correspondence on the [myVTax homepage \(https://www.myvtax.vermont.gov/\)](https://www.myvtax.vermont.gov/). Your prompt response will help us process your refund more quickly.

Tax Credits and Refund Claims Take Time

We encourage you to file for tax credits if you are eligible, but information you provide to apply for these credits often requires research and verification by our tax examiners. This adds time to processing. For example, you must include a completed Schedule HI-144, Household Income, with your Property Tax Credit



Claim. The HI-144 requires detailed financial information for you and household members, which must be reviewed carefully to make sure it is accurate and complete.

We're Checking for Fraud

The Department works hard to fight fraud and protect your refund, but this can add time to processing. As part of our fraud detection efforts, we may send you a letter with instructions to verify your return. To verify your return online through myVTax, select Return Filing Verification on the [myVTax homepage \(https://www.myvtax.vermont.gov/\)](https://www.myvtax.vermont.gov/).

Instances of Fraud are Increasing - But So Are Our Efforts to Stop It

The IRS, Vermont, and other state tax and revenue departments continue to fight identity theft and tax refund fraud. We take our job of protecting taxpayer money and state revenues very seriously. Our special unit dedicated to detecting and stopping fraud reviews and updates our procedures and standards of practice to keep your information safe.

Many of these precautions have resulted in increased processing time, but we believe they are worth it. If we suspect fraud is being committed against you, we will send you a letter requesting verification of your identification. Please respond to our request as soon as possible by following the instructions in the letter. More details about how to report identity theft and fraud can be found on the [Vermont Department of Taxes website \(https://tax.vermont.gov/help/identity-theft\)](https://tax.vermont.gov/help/identity-theft) and the [Internal Revenue Service website \(https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-central\)](https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-central).

Help Us Process Your Refund Faster

You can help us speed up the processing of your return and refund by following these tips. If we cannot process your form, we consider your tax return "not filed," which may result in late fees and penalties.

Choose E-file

Save time and avoid mistakes by filing your return online. Your return will not only get to the Department for processing faster, but the software will walk you through the filing process and do the math for you. You will have to e-file using commercial software, but more than half of Vermont taxpayers qualify for free e-filing through Free File. Find out if you qualify by [visiting our website \(http://tax.vermont.gov/free-file\)](http://tax.vermont.gov/free-file).

Double Check Your Information

- Make sure the Social Security Number on your Form W-2 is correct. If not, correct it with your employer.
- Do the math. Double check your math calculations and enter them on the correct lines.
- If choosing direct deposit, make sure your financial institution account and routing numbers are correct. If in doubt, ask your financial institution.
- Sign on the line. All filers must sign the form if a signature(s) is required.



[Watch: How to Check the Status of Your Refund](#)

The most common problem that can hold up processing is when a taxpayer does not report ALL income earned for the tax year. Be sure to wait until you have received all forms W-2 and 1099 before filing your tax return.

- Print legibly. If we can't read your writing, we will return the forms to you. You must then resubmit them. Poor handwriting? E-file or use the fillable PDF forms to type in your information.
- Submit all required forms and schedules.
- Provide your mailing and physical 911 addresses—We ask for both in Section 1 on Form IN-111. If you move, notify the Department in writing of your new address. See our website for instructions (www.tax.vermont.gov).
- Provide requested identification, such as your Social Security Number, to help us verify your identity.
- Do one final check for accuracy, making sure all numbers are correct and not transposed, math calculations are accurate, and the form is signed by all filers.

If You Use Paper Forms, Always Follow the Form Printing Instructions

Submitting forms in other than their original formats only slows processing and may lead to an additional fee. We may send the return back to you if our scanners and tax examiners cannot read your return. Follow these tips to complete and print forms:

- When printing forms from our website, follow instructions on the forms carefully. Do not shrink or enlarge forms.
- Print forms on 20# or 24# white paper.
- Use only blue or black ink when completing paper forms.

Contact Us

If you have questions, please contact us if you have not received your refund within six weeks after it was issued at tax.IndividualIncome@vermont.gov or (802) 828-2865 or toll free in Vermont (888)-828-2865. We're here to help.