

TINY HOUSE

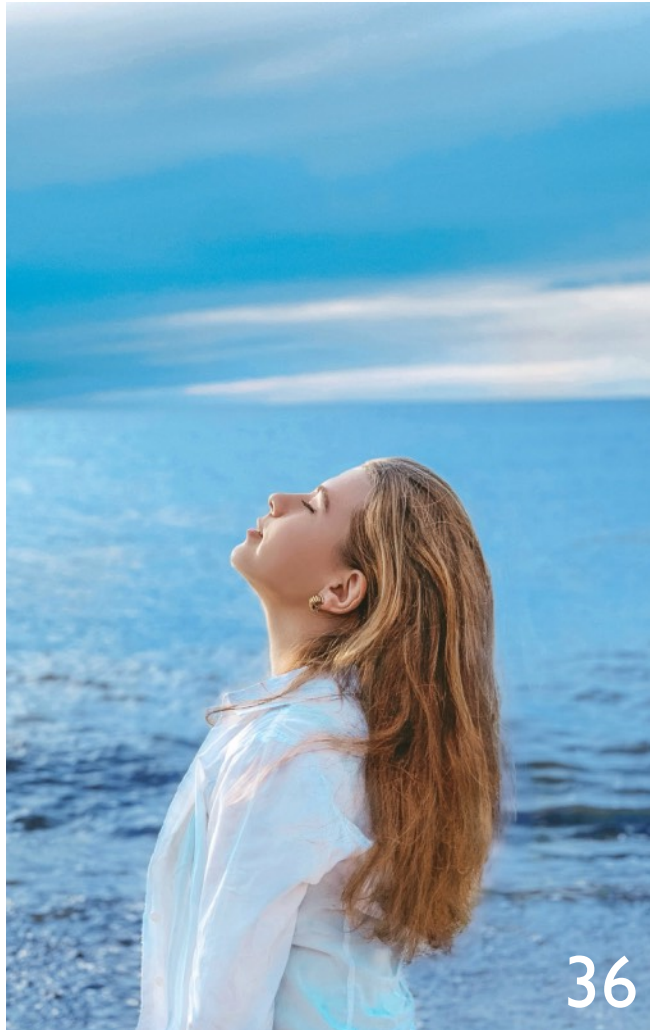
FOR MICRO, TINY, SMALL, AND UNCONVENTIONAL HOUSE ENTHUSIASTS



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ON OUR PAGES



FEATURED

All Aboard

What is a tiny life like in a saved caboose? Why not find out in beautiful James Station.

I Will Survive

Writer Lora Freeman has always been one for being connected and being provided for. That is why she writes about survival....even in a tiny house.

Own Your Own Airstream

Johann and Tom Elsner of Perch & Nest have created some beautiful tinies. Their Airstream is no exception and now it can be yours!

Living Lighter

Are you looking for a quality, all-aluminum-constructed truck camper that is lightweight and affordable?

TINY HOUSES HAVE MANY ITERATIONS AVAILABLE TO YOU. YOU ONLY NEED TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION. A tiny house can be made from just about any type of dwelling. This month's issue features two unique homes that I think will spark your creativity.

Our cover photo and story are based on a couple who inherited some land in Texas. It had a 280-square-foot shed that most people would have left alone or just torn down.

Katy and Michael Krebs are not your normal couple. They saw the possibility of a home in this small space. Michael had very modest construction experience. However, he felt up to the task and took on the challenge. He added a porch extension to make it more welcoming and to take advantage of the scenic views.

With 90 percent of the rehab done themselves, they were able to keep the costs of their new home right around the \$16,000 range. What an accomplishment.

The second home in this issue is a revitalized caboose. Marc and Amy Corbett have been renovating and creating Airbnbs and turned their hobby into a business over the last two years. Their latest challenge was converting this old caboose into a modern living space that you can now rent. Using light colors the space seems much larger than its 326 square feet. It has a fantastic kitchen, a large bathroom, and a nice living area with beautiful views of the surrounding country.

Look around you. What type of structure could you turn into a tiny house?



Kent

Kent Griswold, Editor in Chief



ALL ABOARD

all belong



WE WERE MADE FOR THIS

“We're big on adding reclaimed elements in our designs so when we tore down the dilapidated home where the caboose now sits, we saved as much as we could reuse in the space,” says Amy Corbett of [All Belong Co.](#)



You're hooked already, aren't you? Reclaimed. Check. Caboose. Double Check. I haven't even gotten to the Airbnb part and the fact that you can rent this amazing caboose home in Lynchburg, VA!

Marc and Amy Corbett have been married for over 24 years and have two amazing kids through the gift of adoption. Over the years the Corbett's have met with a number of twists and turns, including stepping down from 17 years of campus ministry, leaving salaries and overall financial stability behind. While the couple had no backup plan they did have a hobby of homes and renovation to focus on until another plan came into focus.

In just two years we grew from four to nineteen All Belong Co. properties.





It all began with the couple renting out the River House Apartment in 2018. The River House, a 1 bed/1 bath attached apartment in historic Lynchburg soon became a stopover for guests from all over the world. It was enough to hook the couple on creating welcoming spaces where anyone could belong. It became so much more than their mission. It was a calling on their family. As Amy writes, “We were made for this!”

According to their website, the couple became “...accidental entrepreneurs. We began getting requests from people who wanted help beginning their journey on Airbnb. And that’s how the Collective began. In just two years we grew from four to nineteen All Belong Co. properties and began the process of hosting in other cities beyond our own.”

As of publishing, All Belong Co. is hosting 30 properties with no signs of slowing down.

At just over 300 sq. ft. James Station Caboose is a one-of-a-kind home that overlooks the James River and the tree-lined horizon of





County. The 1951 Southern caboose found 3.5 hours away in West Virginia, featured on Facebook marketplace, would prove quite the investment. In fact, the cost of bringing and setting the caboose was twice as much as purchasing the caboose itself! The rescued house on wheels has an open feel with a combined bedroom, living room and kitchen. A bath at one end provides the necessary privacy for the residents.

In fact, the interior seems surprisingly spacious, thanks to the bay windows on the sides of the car. Although it has modern amenities, some elements, such as the metal cabinets and doors, evoke the nostalgic feel of a traditional train caboose. The wood accents add some extra coziness to the interior.

The lounge and the dining area are positioned in the bay windows. This allows people to take in the spectacular views while relaxing on the sofa. And if there isn't enough room, the sofa can be converted into a bed for one in just a few minutes. Guests can also admire the waterfall from the breakfast bar, which has a walnut table in the bay window that can serve as a workspace. This area even has a coffee table and a corner complete with a coffee machine, cups, and teas!

But the highlight of the lounge is the interior hammock chairs, which can be easily attached to the metal frames found throughout the caboose. So even if guests can't stay outside due to bad weather, they can still have fun and relax inside.

Adds Amy, "Almost every train car renovation I saw online looked dated, dark, and frumpy. I knew I wanted a modern interior with lots of natural light, while still honoring the fact that it's a vintage train



caboose! It was a challenge to figure out how we'd use the 326 sq. ft most efficiently.”

At the James Station, you've got a top-notch kitchen setup that's ready for any cooking adventure. It's got all the essentials: a portable 2-burner cooktop, a convection oven, a fridge, a spacious sink, and even an air fryer. And there's plenty of storage space in the drawers and cabinets for all your cookware.

As for the bathroom, it's conveniently located at the front and separated from the rest of the tiny home by a pocket door. Inside, you'll find a generously sized shower with a glass door and a rainfall shower head. Additionally, there's a toilet, a large mirror, and a stainless steel sink with a cabinet that stays true to the caboose's original design. And here's a neat feature: there's a fully functional metal door that leads to the front of the caboose, right where the steering wheel used to be.

Almost every train car renovation I saw online looked dated, dark, and frumpy. I knew I wanted a modern interior with lots of natural light

On the opposite side of the James Station caboose is the bedroom, furnished with a comfortable queen-size bed, a swiveling TV, a dresser, a mirror, and a portable fan. Adding to its charm is a porthole window next to the bed. During the day, the interior is bathed in natural light from numerous large windows, and at night, you can illuminate the reclaimed wood ceiling with remote-controlled

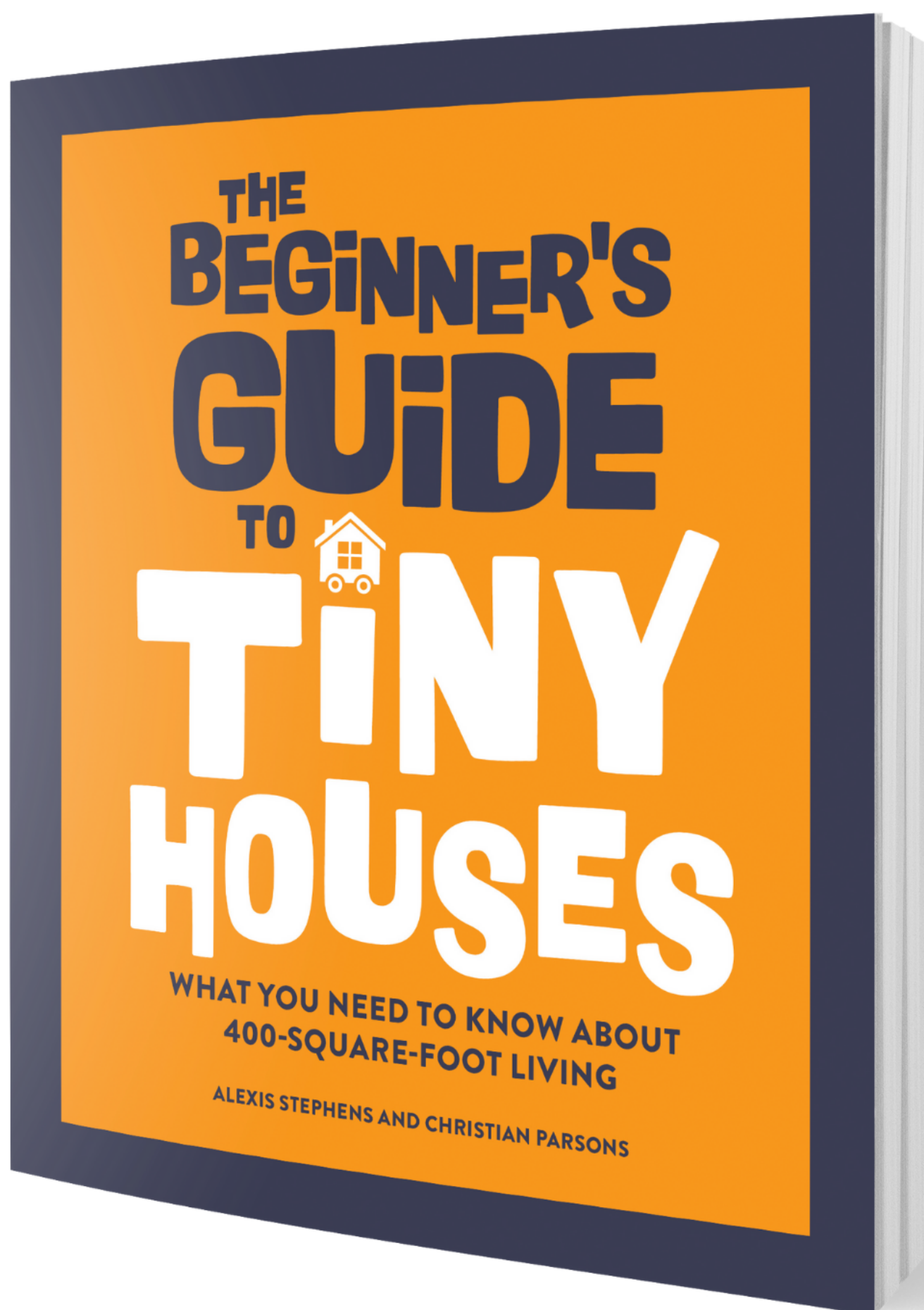


LEDs. It's a delightful space, both day and night.

The James Station caboose captures the attention of those looking to try something new. It's a unique accommodation that offers a little bit of everything. Although it's tiny, sleeping only 3 adults, it manages to squeeze inside all the goodies people need for a memorable stay.

"Your thorough guide to tiny house living, full of time-tested advice from legendary tiny house dwellers and travelers."

—Ethan Waldman, host of the Tiny House Lifestyle Podcast



SONNET

Love and Life in a Tiny House

In youth's embrace, where awkward hearts entwine,
Beneath the wings of friendship's tender flight,
A tale unfolds, as stars and fates align,
In college halls, where dreams and love ignite.

A pact, a pill, a shy request unsaid,
Led to a leap on Valentine's so sweet.
From computer lab to life's shared thread,
Two souls in love, in destiny's grand meet.

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Two souls in love, in destiny's grand meet

Through tiny house, a canvas small yet bright,
In Asheville's charm, they built a world so dear.
Together braved each challenge, each new height,
In spaces close, love's whispers always near.

In tiny walls, vast adventures reside,
Where love and laughter evermore abide.

Advice for Tiny House Relationships

While I often get asked about tiny house dating advice, it's a tricky question to answer. The best thing I can say is to genuinely like being with the other person. If you can do that, you can do anything.

Our time together is precious to us. We thrive on embracing new adventures and overcoming challenges as a team. The tiny house has been instrumental in shaping who we are, but it's also true that the tiny house might never have existed if we weren't already us. It's a fascinating cycle of decisions influencing each other, leading us through a considerable, personalized adventure.

Practical Tips

Here are some insights on nurturing love in a tiny house:

1. Start with a Strong Bond: A tiny house isn't a remedy for relationship issues. No external factor can mend a relationship. It's crucial to have a robust, loving foundation.

I genuinely like spending time with Matt; based on what he's told me, the feeling is mutual. That's it. Every day, we wake up and decide that we like spending time together, so we do.

2. Embrace Disagreements:

Disputes can be constructive if handled healthily. Never sleep on unresolved anger. Be open to finding a middle ground.

Not fighting is not a sign of a healthy relationship. Get those thoughts out so you can hash them out and not hold grudges.

3. Consider a Pet: Pets bring immense joy and companionship. I wholeheartedly suggest bringing a pet into your life.

We've had two extraordinary cats over the nearly 30 years we've been together. They have brought us so much joy.

4. Enjoy Common Interests:

Participating in activities together is essential, including trying new things or indulging in each other's hobbies. It's about cherishing the time spent together.

Our common interests include Detroit Lions football, brewery hopping, travel, and cosplay.

5. Maintain Individual Interests:

While shared activities are necessary, having separate hobbies is equally crucial. It's healthy to spend time apart and be comfortable with solitude.

I like to watch a lot of television. I also write, which is generally a solo endeavor. Matt plays chess and video games to decompress. He also plays music with friends.

6. Let Go of the Trivial: Small annoyances are part of life. Whether it's dealing with unpleasant odors, clothes left on the floor, or forgetting to manage the solar power, these aren't reasons to fret. Learn to overlook and move on.

Farts will happen. Sometimes, a dish will be left in the sink. These things are not big-picture items.

Happy ValenTiny Day

I know many people who don't celebrate Valentine's Day because of its commercial nature. We do because it's an easy anniversary to remember, and we enjoy going out to a nice meal and celebrating our time together. Whatever you choose to do, when you let someone in, a tiny life can get so much bigger.

Sonoma Shanty Plans

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SALE
AIRSTREAM

OWN YOUR OWN

AIRSTREAM

AIRSTREAM

TRAILER
ORMSICLE
NORTH CAROLINA



DREAMSICLE AIRSTREAM

In a picturesque corner of Perch and Nest Tiny Farm, nestled amidst rolling pastures, lies a true gem of Americana: a meticulously preserved vintage Airstream, lovingly revived by the visionary couple Johanna and Tom Elsner. As connoisseurs of all things vintage, the Elsners' journey with this retro beauty is a testament to their passion for preserving history while infusing it with modern functionality and style.

Their odyssey began in the spring of 2022 when an original 1970s Land Yacht model caught their eye on Facebook Marketplace. Captivated by its

untouched allure, complete with original orange Formica counters and a "flower-power" bathroom, the Elsners knew they had discovered something truly special.

Upon bringing her home, the transformation commenced. With meticulous attention to detail, the couple embarked on a journey to preserve this vintage icon to its former glory. Undergoing a comprehensive "RV Certified" treatment, every aspect was carefully inspected and upgraded, from essential systems like propane lines to the addition of contemporary comforts such as a new

- Full Bath, dual closets, dual twins, and full size futon sofa
- NEW roof top heater/AC, water heater, and 110v fridge/freezer.
- NEW fresh water tank, shower fixture, kitchen faucet, & composting toilet.
- NEW propane lines
- NEW Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring
- Original cabinetry, cushions, propane range and windows. NO LEAKS, oven never used!
- Comes fully furnished including vintage finds, dishes, linens, and small appliances.
- Original paperwork and manuals included.









heat/AC and composting toilet.

However, what truly sets this preservation apart is the Elsners' commitment to preserving the Airstream's authentic character. While modern conveniences have been seamlessly integrated, the essence of the 1970s era remains palpable. From the original veneer cabinetry to remnants of shag carpeting nestled in the cabinets for posterity, each element serves as a tribute to the golden age of luxury camping.

Over the past two years, the Airstream has become a cherished sanctuary on Perch and Nest Tiny Farm, hosting overnight guests and igniting nostalgia-filled evenings under the stars. Yet, as the Elsners prepare to bid farewell to this beloved "glamper," their decision is not one of parting but of passing the torch to a new custodian who will continue its legacy on the open road.

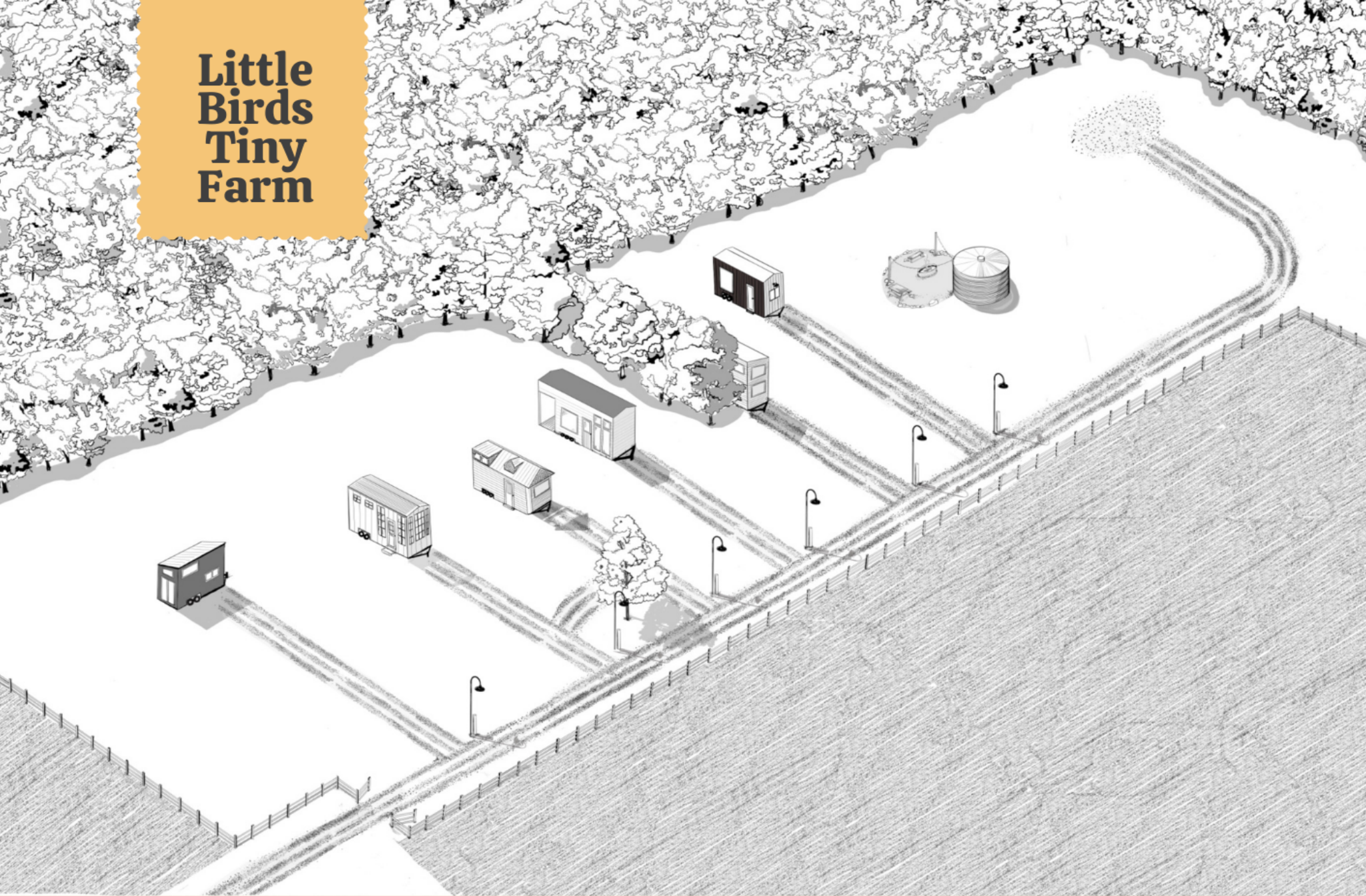
As this timeless beauty prepares to embark on her next adventure, her story can be yours to retell and add to. For those seeking to experience the allure of this vintage masterpiece, a virtual tour awaits on Perch and Nest's website, [Perch and Nest.com](https://perchandnest.com), and within the curated "retro" Instagram Highlight [@perchandnest](https://www.instagram.com/perchandnest). With each click, a journey through time unfolds, inviting all to marvel at the enduring charm of a bygone era, lovingly preserved for generations to come.

VINTAGE AIRSTREAM

FOR SALE

CLICK FOR DETAILS

Little Birds Tiny Farm



Tiny Farm Living in the North Carolina Piedmont

littlebirdstinyfarm.com

- 11+ Acres of gated pasture, full RV hook-ups, and space to garden
- 30 minutes to Greensboro, Winston Salem, + Martinsville
- Month-to-Month and Annual Leases Available



DATAVITAS THEM I

Be Ready for any Emergency Situation – Even in Small Spaces!

If you have ever watched the news after a natural disaster (who hasn't), you probably realize the destruction can be fairly widespread and significant. The federal government knows that in the midst of chaos, sometimes they are unable to reach people quickly.

When I worked at United States Northern Command, we were tasked with providing defense support to civilian agencies (DSCA), which meant we helped mobilize military response efforts to support local and federal emergency agencies in times of disaster. While I was there we responded to hurricanes, floods, and wildfires.

The challenge with these efforts is they are complex and SLOW. Often after a storm or disaster, there is extensive damage to roads, power lines, and other critical infrastructure, which slows down all emergency response efforts. There are often a lot of agencies trying to help, which can make things even more complex.

Despite best efforts, it's important to remember that you and your family may have to wait days (or longer) for help from relief agencies or emergency personnel if a disaster strikes in your area. **We can't assume that someone will always be there to help us.**

Putting together an emergency kit doesn't have to take up a lot of space. Most of the recommended items below can be stored in one storage bin. When I lived in my Tiny House, I had a few bins I stored under the house. This might be an option if space is limited inside.



Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

A basic emergency supply kit should include the following recommended items:

- **Water** (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation) - I'd recommend 2 to 3 gallons per person/per day. A gallon will only cover drinking and cooking, and in a stressful situation after an emergency with potentially limited ability to control the temperature you may find yourself drinking more. The easiest way to store it is in a standard case of plastic water bottles.
- **Food** (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food) - remember to pick foods your family already eats. A disaster situation is not the time to find out that someone has a food allergy or is just unwilling to eat canned SPAM (I have no idea how I liked that in casseroles as a kid).
- **First aid kit** - Make sure your kit has extra bandages and gauze, and that you have the training for anything you add to it. A small boo-boo kit is probably too small for this type of emergency situation. According to the World Health Organization, the most common injuries during natural disasters are lacerations, blunt force trauma (hello ice packs), and fractures. Make sure your kit has things to treat those types of emergencies.
- **NOAA Emergency Weather Radio** (hand crank!) - This allows you to keep up with storm warnings and charge small electronics. Make sure you store extra batteries and can crank by hand if needed.
- **Flashlight & Extra batteries** - I'd also recommend keeping a few headlamps. This allows you to keep your hands free and have light.
- **Whistle** (to signal for help) - It's probably a good idea to get one for each member of your family. IF you



- think things might get tough, go ahead and put these whistles on. Most have lanyards and can be worn. If you need to signal emergency help these could be lifesaving.
- **Dust mask** (to help filter contaminated air) - I'd recommend storing N-95 masks, they can be used for standard filtration and in a pandemic type of situation.
- **Plastic sheeting and duct tape** (to [shelter in place](#)) - We keep plastic sheeting and tarps at our house. You may also want to keep some 550 cord/paracord to help hold tarps and sheeting in place. We have quite a stock of inexpensive tarps from Harbor Freight, but we've also invested in some heavy-duty sheeting from Lowe's. Make sure you have a mix. The goal here is to stay dry and out of the elements.
- **Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties** (for personal sanitation) - Okay no one loves talking about this part, but in an emergency, you could run into a situation where you can't flush your toilet. We keep a camp bucket toilet and bags for just such emergencies. I'd also add personal wipes to stay clean if running water is an issue. (If you have a compost toilet you can probably skip this step!)
- **Manual can opener** (for food) - Canned food items won't help you at all in a power outage situation if all you have in your house is electric can openers.

- **Local maps** - Let's face it, most of us navigate our towns with GPS turned on. Even if you know your way around, a local map can help if there has been road damage or blocked access on your normal routes.
- **Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery** - I keep a small solar charger for my cell phone. Between that and the hand-crank radio, you should be able to keep your phone charged. Just remember in an emergency situation you'll have much more luck texting than calling since phone lines get blocked early.

Additional Emergency Supplies

The list above is the bare minimum, but you might also want to consider the following supplies for your family.

- **Soap, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes** to disinfect surfaces and keep everything safe
- **Prescription Medication** - About half of all Americans take a prescription medicine every day. An emergency can make it difficult for them to refill their prescription or to find an open pharmacy. Organize and protect your prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, and vitamins to prepare for an emergency.
- **Non-prescription medications** such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- **Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution**
- **Cash or traveler's checks** - I'd recommend cash. Store a variety of denominations for emergencies and maybe a few rolls of quarters in case you have to evacuate your house and do laundry at a laundry mat.
- **Important family documents** such as copies of insurance policies, identification, and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container - if you haven't made an Emergency Binder, now's the time. (See this post for more information)
- **Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person** - remember that most synthetic fibers lose their ability to keep you warm if they get wet. Have a plan to keep

your blankets dry in an emergency.

- **Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes** - let me just highlight the shoe part here! Running shoes or tennis shoes are great for walking long distances, but in an emergency situation you want something sturdy...think leather boots (hiking or work boots). If there is debris and broken glass your running shoes are not going to keep your feet safe.
- **Fire extinguisher** - I'd also add fire blankets to this list.
- **Matches in a waterproof container** - Okay this one I'm going to chime in on...I'm always seeing matches on lists...yes they are useful, but so are **BIC lighters**. Consider having some matches, but also stock up on a few lighters...SO MUCH EASIER.
- **Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items**
- **Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels, and plastic utensils** - keep stuff you can dispose of easily. In a disaster, the trash guy isn't going to be showing up every week. We keep heavy-duty paper plates that we can burn if needed.
- **Paper and pencil** - and a few heavy-duty Sharpies. This allows you to leave notes for emergency workers, family, and friends. It's also a place to keep score for the games you are going to store!
- **Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children (and adults!)** - don't discount the power of entertainment and "escape" in emergency situations.
- **Infant supplies** - formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, and diaper rash cream if you have little ones.
- **Pet food and extra water for your pet** - Our animals are part of our family too. I have an emergency pet kit with all of my dog's supplies.

I think it's important to realize that this emergency kit list is what the ***government recommends we store***. This is a great starting point for most of us and the absolute minimum we should have in our homes.

Storing Your Emergency Supplies

Storing all of this in a large plastic bin is a great solution. It allows us to keep things in one place and gives us an easy grab-and-go emergency bin if we need to leave our house. I know space in tiny houses is limited, so it may be more practical to split this kit up into two or three smaller bins you can stash in closets, under stairs, or in lofts. Again, storing some of the stuff under the Tiny House is also an option. Just make sure you bring it in BEFORE the storm! Please don't put this off...build your kit.



***Lora Freeman** is the owner of prepHERedness, a company designed to help women to become more self-sufficient and ready for any emergency. She's a former tiny house dweller and Air Force Colonel, turned emergency preparedness advocate. She lives in Colorado with her husband and crazy Australian Shepherd, Rocket. You can see her weekly advice on her [YouTube Channel](#).*

A TRUE TEXAS TINY



Katy and Michael Krebs weren't your average couple idly daydreaming about tiny house living while watching TV. They were far more proactive and determined. Nestled in the scenic Southeast of Texas, this duo, parents to two adorable daughters, epitomized the quintessential young couple—hardworking renters with a fervent longing for their slice of homeownership.

Their journey took a significant turn when they inherited land, finally glimpsing hope at the end of their housing quest. On this land stood a modest shed, seemingly inconsequential to many but to the Krebs, it held the promise of a 280 sq. ft. future.

With unwavering enthusiasm, they transformed the shed into a haven. Armed with minimal construction experience, Michael led the charge, estimating they completed a staggering 90% of the work themselves. Salvaging materials became their modus operandi, incorporating barn wood, tin, and even repurposed beams, keeping costs at a mere \$16,000 for the interior, taking a mere 9 months from inception to completion.

Their tiny house, integrated into their larger homestead, mirrored their ethos of resourcefulness. Embracing their agricultural roots, the Krebs' land thrived with livestock, imparting invaluable life lessons to their daughters.

Stepping inside the tiny abode, a porch extension greets visitors, providing not just extra space but a cozy play area for the girls. Strategic window placements offer scenic views, while pragmatic features like a propane hot water heater and a mini-split system ensure comfort year-round.





Inside exudes a charming country chic vibe, replete with shiplap walls and rustic furnishings. The kitchen boasts modern conveniences alongside a quaint farmhouse sink, seamlessly merging form and function. The living room doubles as a sleeping space, embodying the versatility synonymous with tiny living.

Tucked away is the bedroom, separated by a curtain for privacy. The adjacent bathroom, though compact, doesn't compromise on comfort, featuring a spacious shower and ample storage.

Despite skeptics, Katy and Michael remained resolute, affirming their belief in the benefits of downsizing. Their tiny house wasn't just a dwelling; it was a testament to their dedication as a family. And now, having transitioned to their "forever home" a stone's throw away, they reflect fondly on their tiny living experience, eager to share their wisdom with others embarking on a similar journey.











Despite skeptics, Katy and Michael remained resolute, affirming their belief in the benefits of downsizing.



Elevated Cabin Plans
Virginia

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The Ten Most Important Time Management Principles I've Learned (and use)

Written By Joshua Becker



I'm not one to label myself as a time management expert. In fact, there are many days when I look back and am almost embarrassed at how much time I wasted.

But over the last 15 years since discovering minimalism, I feel like I've accomplished quite a bit: **Becoming Minimalist, The Hope Effect, Five Books, The Clutterfree App, The Uncluttered Course,**

YouTube, Simplify Magazine, Simple Money Magazine, Becker Method Professional Training.

These accomplishments, I believe, are a direct result of some time management principles I've learned and embraced over the last decade.

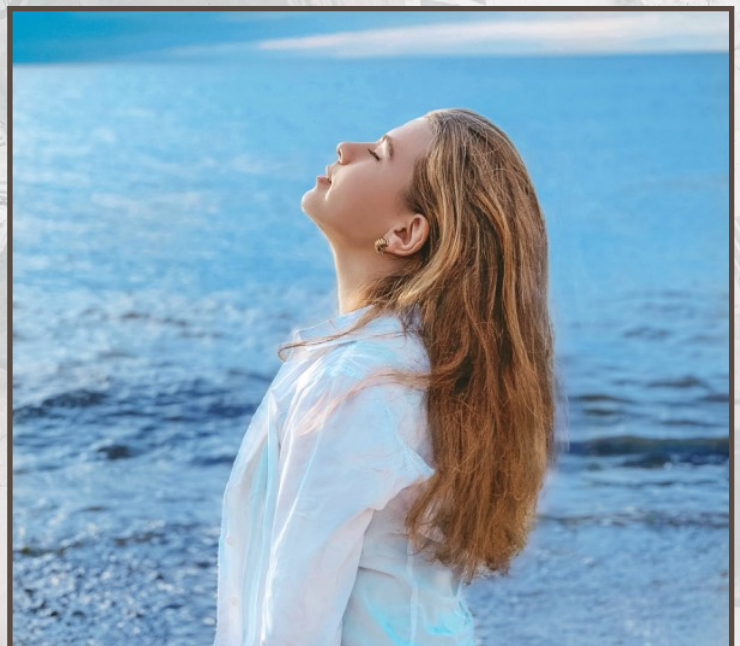
I wanted to take a moment and share them with you because I think most apply to any and every life. Regardless of your "job," there are **important contributions** your life can offer to the world. And if some of these ideas are helpful to you in accomplishing that, I want to propel you forward.

While this is not an exhaustive list of any and every helpful time management technique in the world, here are ten of the most important principles I've learned and routinely practice in my life:

1. Pre-Planning My Day

I love a plan. In fact, it probably drives Kim crazy how often I ask, "So what's the plan?"

But for me, the practice of planning my day is essential to time management. Allocating 10 minutes each morning, **or the evening before**, to outline my work for the next day, helps me start with focus and motivation. It also helps me know the best time to tackle non-time-consuming short tasks over the course of the next 24 hours. This is also where I've learned the value of a **3-Item To-Do List**.



2. Focusing on Habits and Process First

James Clear puts it this way, “You do not rise to the level of your goals. You fall to the level of your systems.” In other words, don’t focus on the big goal you want to achieve, focus instead on small, daily actions and doing them consistently and well.

I’ve written elsewhere on my **three essential habits for living well**: exercise, health, and meditation. I find that when I focus on doing those consistently, productivity follows without extra effort.

3. Setting Artificial Deadlines for Myself

This I learned from a podcast episode by **Craig Groeschel**. Setting weekly deadlines for myself (especially for major tasks) is incredibly effective in both finishing the major task AND accomplishing minor

tasks.

For instance, I schedule my social posts—three/a day on **Facebook** and have done so every day for the last twelve years. This needs to be done every week. My weekly cadence is to schedule all of those posts before Monday ends. Similarly, I set an artificial deadline to finish all my weekly writing projects by Tuesday. These artificial deadlines not only help me **overcome procrastination**, but they also clear my mind for other projects later in the week.

4. Streamlining Wherever I Can

Call it fighting against **decision fatigue** or just not wasting time on unimportant things, this is essentially minimalism in action. I intentionally promote my greatest values (and pursuits) by removing anything that distracts me from them.

Streamlining my day-to-day tasks, often by removing distractions and options, simplifies my life. This could be anything from **wearing the same thing every day** and **eating the same breakfast and lunch every day** to keeping the same morning routine and **limiting visual distractions on my desk**. However you apply streamlining, it's about reducing choices to focus energy on what truly matters.

5. Accomplishing My Most Important Work First

Mark Twain is credited for saying, "Eat a live frog first thing in the morning, and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day." This phrasing has been used by **time management experts** to encourage doing your hardest or most important work first.

Personally, I've never particularly loved doing the

hardest thing first. However, I love doing "the most important thing first." And while oftentimes those overlap, that is not always the case. Similar to the benefits of setting an artificial deadline, once I complete my most important work each day, my mind is more clear to focus on the rest of my to-do list.

6. Embracing Routine

Over the years, I've learned the liberating power of routines and systems. At least, for me personally, I find great freedom in routine.

They enable me to maximize each day. Consistent routines for waking up, morning activities, and even weekly grocery shopping, help me create a daily and weekly framework that allows me to know when meaningful work will get accomplished.

7. Practicing a “Do It Before You Sit Down” Approach to Home Projects

This principle is powerful at home. The idea is simple: If there is something that needs to be done at home in the evening, **do it before you sit down after returning from work (or wherever you were that day)**. Cook dinner, start the laundry, change the light bulb, take out the trash.

Especially when it comes to smaller chores, completing tasks immediately upon returning home, before even sitting down, ensures that these tasks don't linger and become mental burdens.

8. Completing One-Minute Tasks Right Away

I credit Gretchen Rubin for introducing me to the One Minute Rule and I love it. As she puts it, “It's very simple: I must do any task that can be



finished in one minute. Hang up my coat, read a letter and toss it, fill in a form, answer an email, note down a citation, put a dish in the dishwasher, replenish the diaper supply by the changing table, put the magazines away...and so on.”

If a task takes less than one minute, do it immediately.

11. Coffee.

I also like coffee.

There are entire books written on the topic of time management. And if you struggle in this area, it might benefit you to read one.

No doubt there are many other popular time management strategies out there than the ones I listed here. But these are the ten that have profoundly impacted my life in the last 15 years.

Embracing them has certainly made me more productive. But even more than that, they have helped me be more present and intentional in my marriage, parenting, and faith.

While doing more just to do more **isn't the goal of my life**, doing more of the **things that matter** is.



LIVING LIGHTER



By Christina Nellesmann / Photos Courtesy of Soaring Eagle Campers

Adlar 6.5 XLS



In the past decade, the growth and popularity of truck campers has catapulted. With the ease of installation, mobility, and not having to tow a trailer, these campers are fast becoming the first choice for one-the-road living and adventure.

However, when it comes to fully equipped campers, size and affordability seem to be an issue. The campers are either large and expensive, or they lack amenities and are well...expensive.

Soaring Eagle Campers, based in Indiana, may have broken the mold. Not only are their campers a perfect fit for the smallest trucks on the market, but they range in price from only \$15,000 to \$25,000. That's half the cost of what

some of the popular overland truck campers and toppers are going for.

Owners of smaller trucks such as the Toyota Tacoma, Chevy Colorado, Ford Ranger, and even the Jeep Gladiator will rejoice that there is not just one style to choose from but two.

Soaring Eagle offers four sizes of their Adlar model, which is a fully equipped camper with a pull-out bed, dinette, kitchens, and plenty of storage. The four OVX truck topper models are more minimal and made for the Overlander. They feature pop-up roofs, pull-out beds with under-bed storage, and a rugged interior perfect for the DIYer who wants to add their own gear.



Adlar 6.5 XLS interior



Adlar 6.5 XLS interior

"Soaring Eagle Campers was founded based on continual requests from both dealers and consumers who were looking for quality, all-aluminum-constructed truck campers that were lightweight and affordable."

~

Scott Tuttle
Soaring Eagle Campers



The choices are great, but what might be best about Soaring Eagle Campers is that they are each constructed from tubular aluminum which gives strength and longevity to each product. After insulation and wiring, the camper is skinned with fiberglass with composite backing. This keeps the campers nearly impervious to rot and constant vibration from road use.

It also keeps the campers lightweight. The smallest OV-X 5.0 comes in at only 525 lb. (dry weight) and the largest Adlar 6.5XL is only 1,100 lb.

Scott Tuttle, a partner with Soaring Eagle was so kind to give us more information on the company and their products.

Can you tell us a little bit about the history of Soaring Eagles? Who founded it and why?

Soaring Eagle Campers was founded by myself and two friends, Scott Bradshaw and Troy Andrews. While we are a fairly new company, we have decades of experience building quality, lightweight recreational vehicles. I was one of the founders of Heartland Recreational Vehicles. I then founded Livin' Lite Recreational Vehicles (where Troy was a partner of mine and we manufactured the popular line of CAMPLITE all-aluminum constructed RVs including truck campers). I currently hold ownership positions in a handful of other manufacturing companies including inTech Trailers where we build lightweight, all-aluminum constructed travel trailers.

Soaring Eagle Campers was founded based on continual requests from both dealers and consumers who were looking for quality, all-aluminum-constructed truck campers that were lightweight and affordable.

Adlar 6.5 XLS



Adlar 6.5 XLS interior

What features do customers gravitate towards the most? What do they request most often?

The biggest selling feature that Soaring Eagle Campers offers is the fact that we construct our campers out of welded, tubular aluminum and composites, not thin wood members which are stapled together like most of the entry-level camper market. Because we do not use wood in our structure, our campers are much less likely to deteriorate over time like a traditional entry-level product.

Our customer base is part of the 64+ million people who were tent camping last year (that is a real number as documented in the [North American Camping Report](#)), so they are not really looking for luxurious amenities. They are just looking to get up and off the ground and have a comfortable place to sleep for the night.

What are the most popular models and why?

Our models range from smaller campers that fit in the smallest trucks on the market (i.e., Toyota Tacoma, Jeep Gladiator, Ford Ranger, etc.) to slightly larger models that are designed for half-ton trucks.

Our most popular models are the 6.5XL and the 6.5XLS both of which offer sleeping accommodations for four people; dinettes for our customers to eat or play games when it is raining outside; kitchen amenities (cooktop, microwave oven, sink); wardrobes and other storage. Even though our campers are minimalistic, that is the market we are attracting—people who already love to go camping and are more concerned about exploring and enjoying the location they are at than anything inside a camper could offer.

“Soaring Eagle Campers has pioneered some camper models for the smallest trucks on the planet, and they are not the typical tent on top of the cab that people have to climb up a ladder to get into.”

~

Scott Tuttle
Soaring Eagle Campers





Adlar 5.0 interior

What are the price ranges of the different models?

The MSRP (sticker prices) of our campers range from \$15,000 to \$25,000 depending on the model and options. Like when purchasing a new car, you will negotiate your best price with the selling dealer.

Does Soaring Eagles have any plans for additional models in the works?

We do. We are working on a bigger model that will have full amenities, including a bathroom and shower for those looking for more size and amenities than what we currently offer in our product lineup. We are talking about a quality-built medium-size truck camper that will not stress out a truck's weight capacities. We expect this new model to be available sometime early this summer.

To learn more about the products offered by Soaring Eagle Campers and an online brochure, visit the website at soaringeaglecampers.com

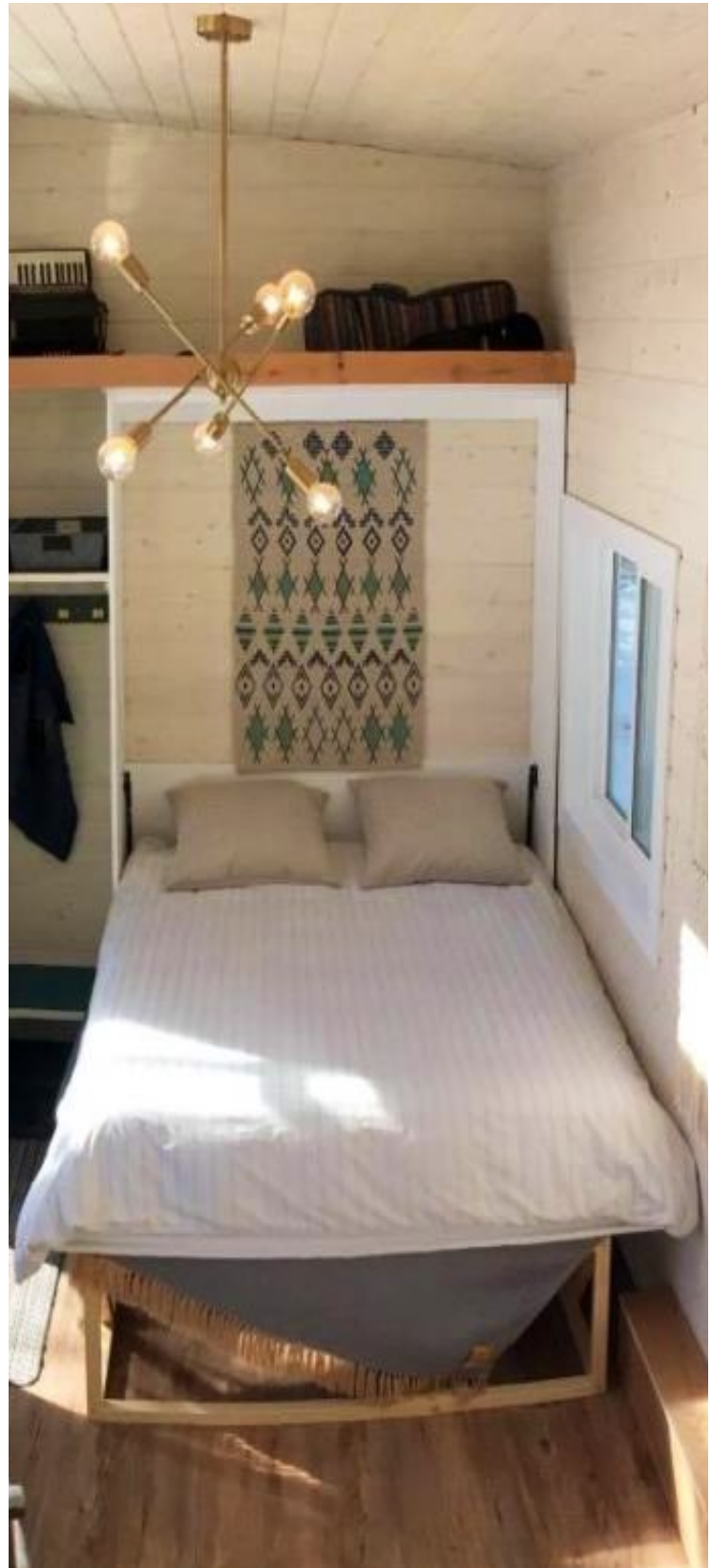




OV-X Model

THE *joy* OF MAKING YOUR BED

Living in a tiny house is all about making the most of what you've got. It means getting creative with space, and the loft bedroom is a prime example of this ingenuity. Imagine waking up in your snug loft, with just enough space to stretch out and a ceiling that's close enough to touch. In fact, the dimensions of a typical tiny house loft bedroom can vary, but they're generally compact, with floor areas ranging from about 50 to 100 square feet. The ceiling height might be around 3.5 to 4 feet at its peak, sloping down to meet the walls.





In this cozy setting, making your bed isn't just about keeping things tidy—it's a little victory that sets the tone for your day.

Let's talk about the practical side of making your bed in a tiny loft. Climbing up and down a ladder or squeezing through a narrow staircase to reach your bed is like a mini adventure every day. And once you're up there, arranging pillows and smoothing out sheets takes some finesse in such a tight space. But despite the challenges, there's something satisfying about getting it just right.

Now, why bother making your bed in such a small space? Well, besides keeping things neat, it's a simple way to start your day on the right foot. When your bed is

made, it's like saying, "I'm ready for whatever comes my way." In a tiny loft where things can easily get messy, a tidy bed is like a little oasis of calm amidst the chaos.

But there's more to it than just keeping things tidy. Making your bed can actually make you feel good. Studies show that completing a small task like this can kickstart your day and put you in a positive mood. And in a tiny loft where every mess is in plain sight, the sense of accomplishment you get from making your bed is even sweeter.

Now, let me tell you a funny story that captures the ups and downs of making your bed in a tiny loft. I was renting a tiny

house loft for several days so I could “try before I buy”. I was excited to embrace the new lifestyle. I climbed up to the loft with fresh sheets in hand, ready to make my bed like a pro.

But here's the twist: I completely forgot about the low ceiling! As I tugged on the sheets, disaster struck. The fabric got caught on the beams above, sending pillows flying and blankets tumbling in a hilarious mess. It was a moment of chaos in an otherwise orderly routine.

But despite the mishaps, our newbie dweller laughs it off and learns an

important lesson: sometimes, life throws you curveballs, even when you're just trying to make your bed. In a tiny loft where every mistake is magnified, it's important to roll with the punches and find humor in the chaos.

In the end, making your bed in a tiny loft is about more than just keeping things neat. It's a simple ritual that sets the tone for your day and brings a sense of accomplishment. So the next time you find yourself wrestling with sheets and pillows in your tiny oasis, remember: even the smallest victories can bring joy in the most unexpected ways.

3 TIPS TO HELPING YOU MAKE YOUR LOFT BED

Loft Bed Organizer

A hanging organizer specifically designed for loft beds can maximize vertical space, providing compartments for storing essentials.

Adjustable Loft Bed Ladder

An adjustable ladder with customizable height settings ensures safe and easy access to the loft bed, accommodating various loft configurations and user preferences while optimizing safety and convenience.

Compact Bedding Sets

Specially designed bedding sets tailored for loft beds offer fitted sheets, blankets, and comforters in sizes optimized for snug loft bed dimensions.





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