

TINY HOUSE

FOR MICRO, TINY, SMALL, AND UNCONVENTIONAL HOUSE ENTHUSIASTS



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ON OUR PAGES



FEATURED

Easing The Edges

Tiny house builder Greg Parham concludes his four-part series with a great article on chasing after your dreams and believing in yourself.

Hurricane Helene

Maybe some of those off-grid skills finally came in handy for Asheville, NC resident and regular contributor Laura LaVoie?

Falling Into Autumn

How do you celebrate the fall season? Do you decorate your home with warm colors? Do you exchange your shorts for sweaters? Author Emily Kearcher tells us how!

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WELCOME BACK BACK TO ANOTHER ISSUE OF TINY HOUSE MAGAZINE! As the leaves start to change and the air gets a bit crisper, we've got some great articles to help you embrace the changing of the seasons.



First up, our regular contributor Greg Parham wraps up his four-part series on the ins and outs of tiny house building. In "Easing the Edges," Greg shares his hard-won wisdom on chasing after your dreams and believing in yourself, even when the path isn't always clear. Whether you're in the process of building your own tiny home or just love reading about the journey, this is an article you won't want to miss.

Next, contributor Laura LaVoie gives us an inside look at how her off-grid expertise came in handy during a wild weather event in "Hurricane Helene." Laura and her partner weathered the storm in their cozy, self-sufficient tiny abode. Grab a cup of apple cider and get ready to be amazed.

And speaking of autumn, Emily Kearcher is here to share how she likes to celebrate the seasons change in "Falling Into Autumn." From swapping out her summer wardrobe to decorating her tiny space with warm, inviting colors, Emily's article is sure to get you in the mood for crisp mornings, crunchy leaves, and pumpkin spice everything.

So curl up, get cozy, and dive into this issue of Tiny House Magazine. Happy reading!

Kent

Kent Griswold, Editor in Chief





EASING THE EDGES

Written By Greg Parham

A CONTINUING SERIES

I've loved every moment of writing for this gem of a magazine, but with 2025 bringing a mountain of new projects my way, it's time for me to step back and take a breather after this issue. Instead of diving into the technical minutiae of what makes an exceptional tiny house, I want to change gears and talk about something a bit different: ways to stretch your thinking and push beyond the boundaries of what you think is possible.

Let me tell you, I'm a nuts-and-bolts type of person. I love knowing exactly how things work and tend to see the world through a pragmatic, structural lens. Back in architecture school, I was eager to get my hands on the practical stuff—like drafting standards, client relations, contracts, and the real-world daily grind of being an architect. But architecture school had other ideas. They taught us to see





differently, to expand our minds instead of just filling them with facts and figures. It's a mindset that has shaped me as a designer, and I've carried it into every tiny house project I've worked on.

Yes, choosing the right trailer and framing it correctly is essential. But it's the creativity and personal touch of the builder or dweller that brings a house to life. I've designed houses that are as unique as the people living in them. I once worked with a client with muscular dystrophy who needed shelves and supports in specific places to help her with daily tasks—her house became her ally, built for her needs. Another time, a tall couple asked for counters at 40" instead of the standard 36", and we made that happen. There were clients who wanted to incorporate heirlooms or hated the "boxy" look of most tiny homes. With some clever planning and elbow grease, we turned those dreams into realities.

So, please, don't be afraid to break free of the mold when envisioning your tiny home! Sure, we're all bound by the laws of physics, budgets, and building codes, but if you want a kitchen counter that's sky-high or a tiny castle on wheels, go for it. Let your imagination take the reins.

This brings me to expanding personal boundaries. When I started building my new tiny house manufacturing facility, I had no experience in excavation, concrete work, or constructing metal buildings. Quotes for these services were astronomical, so I rolled up my sleeves and set out to learn. After binge-watching YouTube tutorials, renting a Bobcat, and talking to every pro I knew, I got to work. By the time I was done, I had learned to dig, grade, pour concrete, tie rebar, and so much more. And with the help of friends, I poured 110 yards of concrete in just six hours on a cold March morning.



Those projects were intimidating, but once I pushed past my doubts, something magical happened. I realized I could tackle projects I once thought were way beyond my abilities. In the following months, I installed a complex septic system, built a 1,500-square-foot house with intricate trusses, crafted a steel staircase, and even built a metal-heavy deck for my neighbor. None of these turned out well because I was an expert—they turned out well because I approached each

one with a can-do attitude, a willingness to learn, and a bit of grit.

If you're on the fence about whether you can tackle your tiny house build, the answer is probably "Yes, you can." It will require planning, time, a few mistakes, a good dose of patience, and maybe a bit of self-doubt. But the payoff? Immeasurable. So, go on—dream big, think bigger, and watch what you're capable of building.

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

-Robert Frost (*The Road Not Taken*)



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HAVE TINY HOUSES REALLY GOTTEN MORE EXPENSIVE

My very unpopular
opinion: tiny houses
really haven't gotten any
more expensive. It's
mostly that our
expectations have
changed—something my
dad used to call
*champagne taste on a beer
budget.*

Written By Alexis Stephens
Tiny House Expedition



Before you start throwing stones, please hear me out. It's also essential to point out that, yes, prices have increased somewhat due to inflation. But there's more to the story.

When my partner Christian and I started building our tiny house on wheels in 2014, it was much more common to hear about tiny homes being built for \$15,000-\$35,000. But those inexpensive totals came from DIY builds—doing all or most of the labor yourself. Additionally, they were typically for 16-24-foot

THOWs, maybe as much as 28 feet if you were really crafty with your budgeting.

In contrast, if you were to buy a 16'-24' tiny house on wheels back in 2014-2015 from a professional builder, it would have cost you as much as \$40,000-\$75,000. Tumbleweed back then was selling a 24' THOW for \$90,000—definitely above average.

Today, people continually bemoan the high costs of tiny houses. They typically do not



acknowledge the average size of THOWs is much larger. Today, 28'-40' THOWs are much more common.

Now that tiny homes have become so mainstream, more people want to live tiny than ever before. So, it follows that a wider clientele's needs will differ from those of earlier adopters. Most don't want to "rough it" in something extra tiny. For the record, I didn't feel like we were roughing it in our 20' long tiny house on wheels. But there are definitely sacrifices when you live in something that tiny.

So the more people interested in this lifestyle translates to the desire for larger tiny homes to meet their needs. That is entirely understandable. However, expecting a 30' THOW for the same price as a 20' THOW is completely unrealistic, especially if you don't build it yourself.

Reality check: you will never get a professionally built tiny home with high-quality building materials, any customizations, and higher-end finishes for the same price as an extra-tiny DIY build from a decade ago.

With that said, I've encountered many recent, resourceful do-it-yourselfers who build various-sized tiny homes for remarkably inexpensive prices. Making this happen often comes down to available time. Sourcing free or low-cost building materials is a time-consuming endeavor. Believe me, I know this fact quite intimately. That's why our DIY tiny home's total cost was under \$25,000.



Bottom line: the most affordable home is one you build yourself.

So why do professionally built tiny homes cost so much more? First and foremost, the answer is labor. We all become aware of this at some point in our lives. For example, when you get the invoice for a car repair and discover that the cost of parts was a fraction of the total. Personally, I hope that tiny housebuilders pay their employees fairly and offer some benefits. The reality is that it is expensive. Add in the overhead cost of shop space, utilities, government fees, liability insurance premiums, etc.; building companies have many more expenses than DIY builders.



I can hear the naysayers now talking about price gouging and ridiculous square footage costs for tiny homes. First, nothing upsets me more than people paying a premium for a low-quality THOW. Second, square footage pricing simply doesn't work for tiny houses.

No matter the size, every house includes the same essential elements, like a kitchen and a bathroom. You still need these functions even when dramatically shrinking the square footage. The most expensive parts of building a home are often the plumbing, electrical, and HVAC systems. Additionally, some folks opt for higher-end finishes in a tiny house, like a fancy marble countertop, because they can afford the small

quantity needed. But guess what? That impacts the cost per square foot!

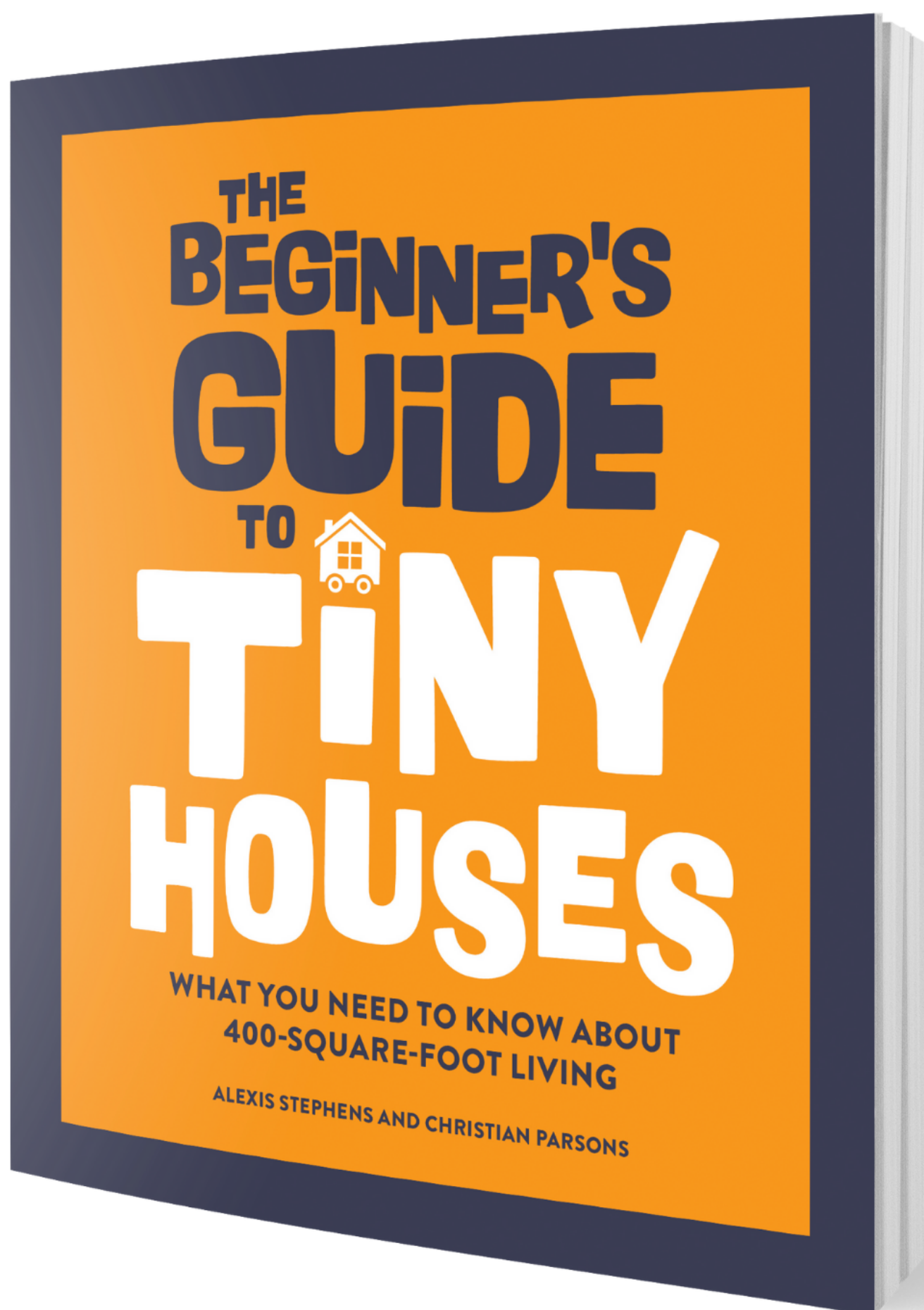
Other factors influence the cost of modern-day tiny homes. Beyond inflation driving up the costs of building materials, many established tiny house-building companies experience increased overhead expenses that impact the price of their homes. I'd argue that the latter, to some extent, is actually a good thing, though painful for the pocketbook. For instance, the cost of tiny house certification. These days, all tiny home builders pay for accredited third-party certification programs. As a result, buyers have an easier time gaining financing and insurance. That was definitely not the case a decade ago.

I completely appreciate how unaffordable home ownership is in the United States and how disappointing it can be to find a limited number of professionally built tiny houses for less than \$100,000. They are out there, but it's important to be realistic about what you can get for your money. Consider whether you can build one entirely or partially yourself for significant savings. Shells are a great option.

I still believe that tiny homes provide a much-needed high-quality option in our limited housing market, as starter homes, homes to retire in, or any transition in life. Well-built THOWs are vastly more durable than traditionally manufactured RVs. They are movable residential homes that offer a more attainably priced pathway to homeownership.

"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



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The story of quilts stretches back to a time long before the European settlers stepped onto the shores of the New World. Across nearly every corner of the globe, people crafted padded fabrics—stitching together warmth, protection, and even armor. But when the English and Dutch settlers arrived in North America, quilting bloomed with a new vigor, becoming more than just a craft—it became a cherished tradition.

The word "quilt" finds its roots in the Latin *culcita*, meaning a stuffed sack, yet its meaning has expanded. As a noun, it speaks of the three-layered bedcovering, where fabric is stitched together to hold warmth and history in its folds. As a verb, it speaks to the art of quilting, binding

those layers into one. In its simplest form, a quilt is a cloth sandwich—its top is usually adorned with designs, its back supporting, and a soft filler tucked in the middle.

Fast forward to the 1980s, when T-shirt quilts entered the scene. These quilts, fashioned after the "Sampler" style, became more than just bedcovers. They wove together memories, each square a snapshot of a life lived. Old t-shirts—knit uniforms, racing logos, pockets, and sleeves—became mementos, forever preserved in fabric. In my family, these quilts aren't just blankets to throw across a couch; they are living tapestries of our past. My wife cherishes her "Life Is Good" quilt, stitched together from tees of the same name, marking her inspirational beliefs. My daughter snuggles under her "Life on the Road" quilt, made from t-shirts worn when we lived on the road during her toddler years. Even my nephew has one, pieced together from his FFA shirts. And all of these creations were lovingly made by my 76-year-old father, making the quilts even more precious.

This piece, however, is neither a guide to quilting nor a tribute to my dad's skill with needle and thread. Instead, as I sit here, gazing at the quilt before me, I'm reminded of my journey over the last 12 years, immersed in the modern tiny house movement.

In those years, it feels as though I've packed a lifetime's worth of work into every stitch. Alongside my wife and father, I built our first tiny house on wheels, a home where we lived for nearly three years. I've helped construct seven other tiny homes, consulted on countless builds, and formed partnerships with companies that





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Mini Split A/C
13' 6" High
Shed Roof 1/12 Pitch
Wood Burning Stove
Skylight
Storage Loft
Full Size Bathroom
2 5/16" Coupler
Solar Powered
Tiny House Basics



specialize in everything from heating units to drawer pulls. I've penned three books, contributed forwards to eight others, graced the covers of magazines, and been quoted in documentaries and television programs. I've hosted tiny house festivals, led workshops, and even crafted a college course on post-WWII housing, which featured tiny houses on wheels. And yes, like they say—I have the T-shirts to prove it.

There's a shirt from the Try It Tiny Tiny House Village at Bristol Motor Speedway in 2018, where I helped set up and style tiny homes while getting my first taste of American race culture. There's the memory of my first phone call with Joshua Engberg, discussing his plans for custom trailers to support tiny houses. Then, there's the shirt that reminds me of those wild festivals in Portland and Colorado Springs, where our team seemed to pull off the impossible. And I smile, thinking about my workshops with the Diedricksen brothers, especially the time in Los Angeles when I got a sinus infection and nearly overdosed on NyQuil—only to find myself sleeping on the ground at a crosswalk for hours!

This quilt is a reflection of my journey. My

*it serves as a
reminder of all the
wonderful moments
I've been part of
over the years—
moments sparked by
the simple dream of
building a tiny house*

mother even found fabric with tiny houses to adorn its edges, a perfect touch. I may not use it often; perhaps it will simply rest on the quilt ladder in the corner of the room. But it serves as a reminder of all the wonderful moments I've been part of over the years—moments sparked by the simple dream of building a tiny house my wife and I could pay for in cash. Nobel laureate Daniel Kahneman once said, "Memories are the architecture of our identity," and the memories stitched into these shirts have truly helped shape who I am today.

The Road Less Traveled

Life as Full-Time RVers





journey as full-time RVers, and it has been an incredible adventure ever since.

For the first three years, the couple traveled the country in their fifth-wheel, enjoying the comfort and space it provided. Recently, however, they decided to downsize even further. They now live full-time in a truck camper, a Palomino HS2902, which offers less than 100 square feet of living space. While much smaller, the truck camper has everything they need to continue their nomadic lifestyle.

Their Tiny Home on Wheels

The Gills' camper has one slide-out, which creates a booth dinette that serves as a dining area, office, and occasionally, a bed. The

In 2020, [Shane and Patty Gill](#) became empty nesters and decided it was time to embark on a new adventure. After 24 years in the Air Force, where they moved every couple of years, the nomadic lifestyle was second nature to them. They had always dreamed of traveling across the U.S. in an RV but figured they would do it when they were much older. One day, they asked themselves, “Why wait?” Still passionate about exploring new places, they downsized from their 3,600-square-foot home, sold most of their belongings, and purchased a 400-square-foot fifth-wheel camper. Thus began their

storage space under the dinette is essential since the camper itself lacks outdoor storage. To further maximize space, they converted the back seat of their truck into a mini garage and tool shed.

Living in such a small area requires strategic planning and the use of multifunctional items. Their truck camper is equipped with a full RV refrigerator, a three-burner stove, an oven, and a microwave, though they mostly use the microwave for storage since they prefer off-grid living over campgrounds. The queen-sized bed has enough







headroom to sit up comfortably, and when their son joins them on trips, the dinette converts into a bed for him.

The camper also features a wet bath with a toilet and shower, along with an entertainment system for music and movies. It holds 40 gallons of fresh water and has 20-gallon black and gray tanks, allowing them to stay off-grid for extended periods of time.

Tips for Living on the Road

Living Tiny has taught Shane and Patty valuable lessons about minimalism and efficiency. Here are a few tips they've picked up along the way:

1. Use Multi-Purpose Items

Everything in their camper serves more than one function. For example, they use decorative pillowcases and an ottoman to store extra towels, sheets, and blankets.

2. Maximize Vertical Space

They make use of vertical space by hanging baskets on the walls and using tiered racks in cabinets. Hooks on the walls hold hats, jackets, and towels, freeing up precious cabinet space.

3. Declutter Regularly

Every few weeks, they go through the fridge, cabinets, and drawers to donate anything they



haven't used. Their rule is simple: if something new comes into the camper, something else must go. For instance, they no longer use a toaster, opting to make toast in a pan instead, which works just as well.

4. Start Small Before Going Tiny

For those considering the RV lifestyle, the Gills recommend starting in a slightly larger space before transitioning to something smaller. Living in a small space together first handles living in even tinier quarters. It's surprising how much people can live without once they get used to it.

The Freedom of the Road

Shane and Patty love the freedom their lifestyle offers. Traveling has always been in their blood, and they start to feel restless if they stay in one place for too long. Living tiny has brought them closer together and taught them that material possessions aren't necessary for happiness. For them, the open road and each other's company are more than enough.

By embracing the minimalist lifestyle, the Gills have found joy in focusing on experiences rather than belongings. Full-time RV life has redefined their idea of home, proving that life's greatest adventures come from living with less. They wouldn't trade their journey for anything.







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WRITTEN BY LAURA LAVOIE

Surviving Helene

How Tiny Living Philosophy Carried Us Through the Storm



A week or so after Hurricane Helene swept through my town of Asheville, North Carolina, I was talking with my business partner. She told me one of our clients was particularly worried about Matt and me. My business partner said to her that she didn't need to worry about us and that we were capable of living in these conditions because of our tiny home experience.

I've been thinking about that a lot.

The storm caught our region off-guard. We knew that the remnants of Hurricane Helene would bring rain and wind and be a big deal, but we had no idea that it would cause the rampant destruction that it did. Our home was spared damage, but trees were down all over our neighborhood. There was some flooding in our

creek, but to make matters worse, communications were cut off. We simply had no idea of the scope of what was happening in the moment.

Though Matt and I lived in our off-grid tiny home for a year, there is a big difference between choosing that experience and what happened to us on September 27th.

No Power, No Water, No Cell Service, No Internet

In 2012, we "upsized" from 120 square feet to a 700 square foot bungalow just north of Downtown Asheville. With that move came access to power and running water. Our tiny house was built to be off-grid with a small solar power system, a composting toilet, and no running water. We collected our water from the spring on our land and ran it through our Berkey water filter. It was our choice, and we enjoyed it.

Until we didn't.

In the summer of 2019, we returned to the tiny house for the summer while Matt was in law school. We had renters in our bungalow, and Matt got a summer internship in Asheville. Our experience was much different then. The tiny house was designed to function outside a traditional 9-5 work week. It got old fast when we had to do all our chores, like water gathering, only on weekends or after dark. Add to that a pretty rainy summer, a quarter-mile hike to our tiny house, and being in my mid-forties instead of late-thirties, it became apparent that off-grid living wasn't for us anymore.

While Hurricane Helene knocked out our power and water, and we have experience with that, we wouldn't have expected the lack of communication. With no internet or cell service, we had to get our information the old-fashioned

way. Through word of mouth and, eventually, twice-daily briefings on the local radio station, for which I was glad we owned a small radio. We'd gather in our living room with our neighbors and listen together.

Could We Have Been More Prepared?

As soon as we recognized the gravity of the situation, we mused that all of our off-grid living equipment was up at our tiny house near a town completely ravaged by flood waters. We couldn't even get to it to bring it back if we wanted to. But we raided our camping gear from years of glamping and could use a propane camp stove and a dry toilet if necessary.

While we lamented that we didn't have these items with us, they wouldn't have mattered. The

catastrophic destruction of our municipal water system was once in a generation, and no amount of preparation could have helped with the lack of communication infrastructure.

We did get resourceful, though. We're close with our neighbors, and each night we pooled what food we had to cook to make family dinner. On night two, we used cans of black beans, an onion, peppers from our gardens, a lot of cheese, and tortillas to make tacos. Even with the emotional weight of what happened on all of our shoulders, we could share the meal and laughter.

You Can't Pour from an Empty Cup

After a week, Matt and I decided to leave Asheville. My sister and brother-in-law in Michigan opened their home to us, and we drove 5





hours a day for three days to reach them. As much as we wanted to stay home, the lack of resources became unbearable. I already have a diagnosed anxiety disorder, and this wasn't helping.

Leaving allowed us to reassess and be in a safe environment. As much as I wanted to be in my community and help, I know my strengths aren't shoveling mud and cleaning debris. From here, we could look closely at ways to give back both in the immediate and the long term because recovery will take years.

You Can Go Home Again

By the time this is published, we will be back in Asheville, resuming some sense of everyday life even with the chaos and trauma all around us. The water is restored, though it'll be some time before it's drinkable. Internet and power are back on,

allowing me to work from home. And anywhere with Matt and Toast is home.

Moving away from Western North Carolina will be a strong possibility for many. It always happens after disasters; Our neighbor is a Hurricane Katrina refugee. But as I sit at my sister's dining room table typing on my laptop, I can only think about going home to Asheville. It's going to be a long road to recovery with emotional ups and downs, but I can't think of anywhere else I want to be.

While I didn't have an opportunity to use my skills living off-grid during this disaster, living in the tiny house did teach me a fundamental lesson.

Love where you live. Make it home. Be involved. It doesn't matter the size of your home; tiny living is a philosophy, and it can help you assess what's most important, even in the wake of a disaster.

15 Super Helpful Decluttering Tips for Busy People



WRITTEN BY JOSHUA BECKER

One of the most life-changing benefits of owning fewer possessions is the gift of *more time*. No doubt many of you have already experienced that. When we own less, we spend less time cleaning, organizing, maintaining, repairing, replacing... even shopping for new things in the first place.

Life becomes more manageable and less overwhelming at home (and in the world). In fact, the sheer amount of time saved by owning less surprises almost everybody who becomes a minimalist. It's impossible to realize how much of a burden our possessions have become until we begin to remove them.

But, when you're just starting out on the journey to become minimalist, it can feel like the opposite is true. It feels like you're adding *more things to do* to an *already busy* schedule. When you're working a full-time job, raising kids, managing a home, attending family commitments, AND partaking in a few hobbies, the thought of finding extra time to declutter feels impossible for many.

Despite the obstacles, it is so worth the effort.

It might take you a little bit longer to minimize than someone who has more free time, but here are 15 practical, decluttering tips to help you get started:

1. Start Small and Visual

Your first step in the right direction doesn't need to be a big one. So pick a starting area that has a noticeable impact but won't take much time. A medicine chest, your nightstand, shelving in your living room, maybe a kitchen countertop are all great starting points. These

are spaces we see frequently, and clearing them can create a quick visual win, fueling motivation to keep going.

2. Use “In-Between” Moments

Decluttering doesn't always require long stretches of time. Use spare moments—like while waiting for dinner to cook or during commercial breaks—to tidy a small drawer, a shelf, or your desk. If done consistently, these quick actions will add up.

3. Schedule Decluttering Time

For larger projects, carve out a specific time in your week, like a Saturday morning or an hour in the evening after the kids go to bed. If you live a busy life, you probably live by the calendar anyway. There are some projects that just require a period of time—so schedule them in and use your time efficiently when you do.

This will be the hardest at first. But like I mentioned, you'll be surprised how much time decluttering grants you back when it's completed. After scheduling just a few of these sessions at the beginning, you'll find it easier and easier.

4. Declutter As You Go

Think of looking for items to declutter as an intentional part of your daily routine. For example, if you try on clothes and decide not to wear them because you don't like the fit or color anymore, don't toss them back into the closet—place them in a donation pile immediately. Same with toiletries or self-care products that you just can't find the motivation to use.

5. Set Aside 10 Minutes Each Evening

As part of your bedtime routine, plan on a 10-minute decluttering session somewhere on your way to bed. For example, start by spending 10 minutes in the living room where you watch TV. Or ten minutes in the bathroom where you get ready for bed. Or ten minutes decluttering an area in your bedroom. Ten minutes per day, consistently, will make a huge impact in just a week.

6. Focus on Frequently Used Areas

In the earliest stages, focus on decluttering spaces that you interact with daily—like your kitchen, bedroom, or closet. Decluttering these areas will make your day run more efficiently right at the beginning.

7. The “One-In-One-Out” Rule

For every new item you bring into your home, remove one that’s no longer needed. If you have a lot of decluttering to do, use the “One-In-Two-Out” variation. This commonly used trick will force you to make progress even when you don’t feel like it.

8. Adopt a “No-New-Purchases” Rule

If you like the idea of the “One-In-One-Out” Rule, go for it! But another decluttering tip for busy people is to temporarily commit not to buy *anything* until your current decluttering project is complete.

There are many people who have changed their lives through a No-Spend Month or a No-Spend Year (this doesn’t usually apply to



consumables like food).

I'm not saying you *need* to do this as part of your decluttering. But deciding specifically not to buy anything new until your decluttering is done will make your decluttering both easier (less stuff coming in) and faster (because of the incentive to finish).

9. Declutter A Little Before You Sit Down

I learned a life-changing concept several years ago: A do-it-before-you-sit-down approach to getting stuff done at home.

But the principle is simply this: As soon you get home in the evening before you sit down to relax, do at least a little bit of decluttering somewhere in your home.

10. Learn Helpful Questions to Ask

When decluttering on a schedule, it's important to focus on efficiency. So find those questions that help you make quick progress removing things from your home. You might want to try: *Do I need this? Does this item help my home function better? Is this just a duplicate of something else? Why do I have it? What would I use if I didn't own this?*

The question that works best for you might be different than the question that works for someone else. So try out a few. And zero in on the one that helps you make the best progress.

11. Donate on Your Commute

Keep a donation box in your car. As you declutter, place unwanted items directly in the box. The next time you drive by a donation center—whether on your way to work or running errands—drop it off. This 1) saves you time; 2) keeps clutter from building up in your



home; 3) and helps with the most important step of the decluttering process: actually removing the things from our possession.

12. Hire Help

If you're feeling overwhelmed, there's no shame in hiring some help. Most people who hire decluttering help do so because 1) They don't know how to do this on their own; or 2) They don't have the time to do it themselves. I have personally trained over 50 professionals and individuals in my strategy and approach to own less. I recommend any one of them: **Becker Method Certified Declutterers**.

Even having a friend or family member help can make the task feel lighter and faster.

13. Keep the Right Mindset

Remind yourself that every minute spent decluttering pays off in the long run. For every minute you spend minimizing, you're likely saving yourself an hour of future cleaning, organizing, or searching for misplaced items. Think of your decluttering time as an investment—and find motivation in that mindset.

14. Temporarily Cancel a Recurring Appointment

Here's the good news: There is a finish line to your decluttering journey. You may need to make an intentional change in your regular weekly or monthly schedule for now, but that change won't last forever. Once you declutter your home, you'll be able to add that appointment back into your life plus more if you want.

15. Involve the Whole Family

Decluttering doesn't have to be a solo activity. Involve your family members, especially if they contributed to the clutter. Set a timer for 20 minutes and see who can declutter the most in that time. Making it a family project can lighten the load and speed up the process.

Of course, I'm not expecting you to use all 15 of these tips—you've got enough on your plate already!

But finding just 2 or 3 that fit naturally into your busy lifestyle will help you make the progress you're looking for. With each small step, you'll notice the difference in your home and, more importantly, in your life.

 becomingminimalist



*Joshua Becker is the WSJ Best-Selling author of **The More of Less** and **The Minimalist Home**. His book, **Things That Matter**, is available on Amazon.*



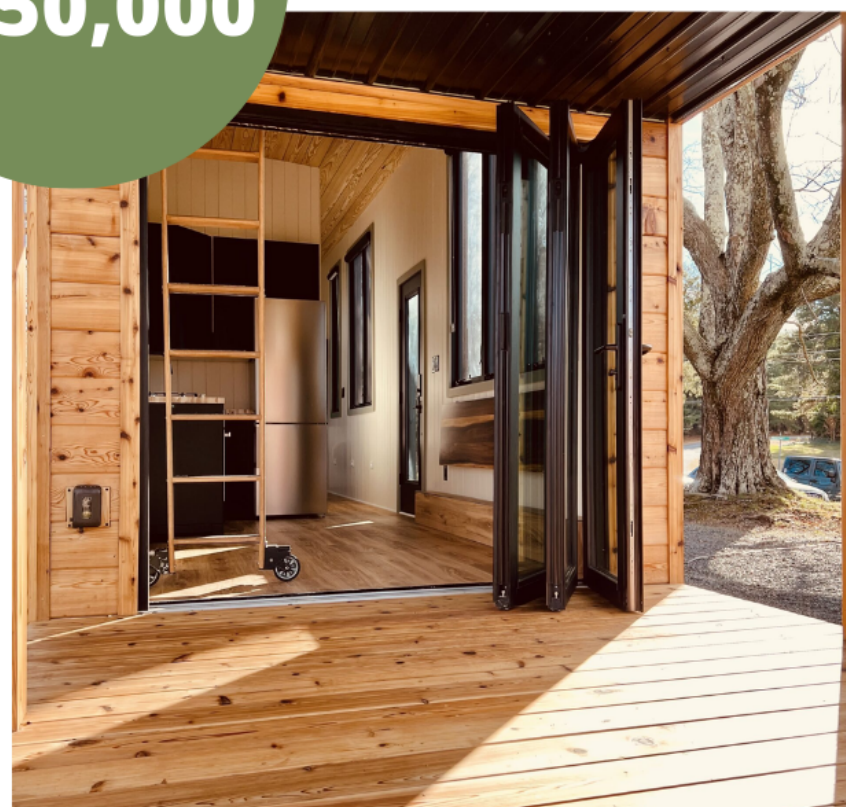
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Getting Settled tiny

Settling into a new space is a process that unfolds over time, often measured not in days, but in months. My family is slowly adjusting to our new rooms, and even my parents have settled comfortably into theirs. From their window, they enjoy the rhythm of the household—the sounds of the kids coming and going from school and work. Occasionally, we manage to gather for family dinners, a rare but cherished occasion. Tiny living isn't always about residing in a small



house or a converted shed; sometimes, it's about finding peace in a tiny room.

As for me, I'm still navigating the clutter, surrounded by boxes in the garage waiting to be donated or discarded, and a room that is still in transition. Recently, I transformed a closet that



had been used as a desk back into its original purpose. Surprisingly, hanging clothes in an actual closet felt like a major victory—a gratifying step toward creating a new, more intentional way of living. I had already pared down my wardrobe years ago, sharing a primary bedroom closet with my younger son, but this moment still felt significant.

Amidst all these personal changes, I was offered a part-time consulting contract with a company that's set to grow exponentially in the next three to five years. Given my current health challenges, part-time work is the best option for me, though I'm grateful for the flexibility to increase my hours when possible. Still, there's much downsizing ahead, too many uncertainties, and the constant need to maintain a steady income. Balancing work and life feels almost impossible at times, especially when even part-time hours can seem overwhelming. It

takes a particular skill set to manage time wisely in such circumstances.

Currently, my tiny room reflects the chaos of my life. Moving boxes or piles of clutter can take weeks, and when I do find the energy, it's often in the early hours of the morning when I can't sleep. I wonder whether the physical disarray is affecting my mental state—keeping me awake and unsettled. Last night, for instance, after clearing a pile of clutter, I finally found rest. It might just be a coincidence, but I do notice that every time I clean a corner or eliminate some chaos, I feel lighter and more capable of moving forward.

Tiny living encompasses so much more than just physical downsizing—it's a psychological and emotional shift as well, especially for those like me, at this stage of life. When your children are young, your world revolves around them,

and your tiny home expands to include their needs. But as my boys grow up—one already having moved out and another preparing to do so next year—my world is contracting. Downsizing my life, while also shrinking the world I've built around my children, is an experience I struggle to put into words. It's not grief in the traditional sense, but a profound shift.

I remember when I was pregnant with my second son, I couldn't imagine how I would have enough love to give to another child. But when he was born, my heart expanded effortlessly to accommodate him. Now, as my children grow and move into their own lives, my love doesn't shrink—it contracts, making space for them to return when they need me. It's a natural shift, not a loss, and in many ways, it mirrors the process of downsizing my physical living space.

This realization fuels my desire to continue living Tiny. By clearing out the chaos and

simplifying my life, I'm making room—not just physically but emotionally—to be present for my children when they need me and to fully embrace this new phase of my life. ■





CUSTOM BUILDERS MOVABLE ROOTS

PRICE DROP ALERT

We are trying to make room for our upcoming custom builds to finish out 2024 and into 2025. We're offering an incredible deal on our existing inventory of the 20' Jojo Bean and the 24' Jojo Bean.

- 20' Jojo Bean: Now Only \$69,999
- 24' Jojo Bean: Now Only \$79,999

Both models are ready to ship immediately!



LITE & BRITE



By Christina Nellemann / Photos by Scamp Trailers



When anyone talks about fiberglass campers, the word Scamp automatically comes to mind. The company has not only been around since the 1970s, but the cute, rotund shape is the epitome of the classic camper seen on vintage posters and “I’d rather be camping” bumper stickers.

While Scamp is only one of many fiberglass trailers that have come and gone over the decades, it is the one that has both stayed true to its design and has evolved the most.

The 13-foot-long classic Scamp is the most popular, but the company also sells a 16-foot version and a 19-foot gooseneck version.

The company has been listening to customers over the years and has just introduced the Scamp Lite. This 13-foot version of the classic comes in at only 1,250 lb. and starts at only \$16,995.

The **Scamp Lite** removes some of the features that make the original heavier and more expensive but still leaves many of the features that make this trailer very functional.

For people who want to camp light, but don’t want to worry about water or propane systems, the Scamp Lite may be the perfect fit.

Jad Erickson, the graphic/web designer for Scamp Trailers was so kind to answer a few of our questions about the new Scamp Lite.





What was the catalyst for designing the Scamp Lite?

Ultimately, we wanted to reach a new demographic of people: the tent campers. We wanted something that was simple, lightweight, and more affordable.

What are the most popular and beneficial features of the Scamp Lite?

I would say the most popular feature, and the main reason people love it, is the colored bottom half, available in seven colors. We also brought back the classic baby moon

hubcaps to give it a retro look. Additionally, people appreciate the lack of plumbing and stovetop, which reduces maintenance. With no need for winterization, you can simply hook up the trailer and go.

What has been the response to the Scamp Lite design from the public?

The response has been great! People absolutely love the Scamp Lite, they have been selling like crazy. So much so that we decided a few weeks ago to release the 16' Scamp Lite, the same simple design, but in a 16' trailer.



What are Scamps and the Scamp company best known for?

Scamp is best known for its 13-foot trailer and its history of being a family-run business.

Since 1971, we have been manufacturing trailers in Backus, MN, and every Scamp you see on the road was made there. We are excited to announce plans to open a new facility in Phoenix, AZ, by December 1, 2024. This location will feature a showroom, sales offices, and service work.

What do you think is the key to Scamp's success?

I believe our key to success lies in being a third-generation family-run business.

Micah, our current CEO/President, follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, who founded Scamp in 1971, and his father, who took over as president in 1989.

Since 2020, Micah has been leading the company. We are committed to continuous innovation, consistently introducing new features and products to the fiberglass trailer community.



SCAMP LITE STANDARD FEATURES

- 54" Rear Bed
- 2" Receiver
- White Bottom
- Mounted Rear Jacks
- Baby Moon Hubcap Rims
- Composite Floor
- 3rd Brake Light
- Prep for A/C
- LED Exterior Lights
- Acrylic Insulated & Tinted Windows
- Cabinet Over Base Cabinet
- 45 Amp Power Converter
- Outside GFI Outlet
- Volt Meter
- Battery Disconnect Switch
- Screen Door
- 27 Series Battery Pack
- 7-way Protector
- Solar Prepped Port in Battery Box
- Spare Tire
- 30 Amp Inlet & Cord Set

OPTIONAL FEATURES

- Bottom Color Choice
- Outside Step
- Exterior Grab Handle
- Sani Potty
- Roof Fan
- Roof Air Conditioner
- Soft Start for Air Conditioner
- Heat Strip for Air Conditioner
- Anti-Sway Bar
- Portable Solar Panel Kit
- Backup Camera
- Front Tongue Jack Selection
- Battery Selection (2025)
- Storage Cover for 13' Trailer
- Generator Selection
- 8-foot Awning





Learn more about the Scamp Lite and Scamp Trailers scamptrailers.com.

[WATCH THE SCAMP LITE WALKTHROUGH VIDEO](#)

Falling Into Autumn



Written By Emily Kearcher



Fall is amazing, but I find it can be quite challenging. It's not the change in weather that gets to me; in fact, I rather love the cooler temperatures and changing of leaves! (I live in the Pacific NW and it's beautiful this time of year!) What I find to be the challenge and often my frustration, is how quickly we are forced into the holiday season. It seems as soon as September hits we are to decorate our homes for Halloween and then before October is even over, people are setting up for Christmas. Sometimes it feels as if it's a challenge of who can decorate sooner or more elaborate or who can keep up with the latest holiday festive trends. Now, don't get me wrong, I do like to decorate and I sure love all that this

season can bring, but I don't like the rush as if there's a prize at the end for who got through it the fastest. I hate the frantic feeling of trying to cram as many traditions into the weekends as possible as if it's the only way to enjoy the season. Someone at work the other day asked me, "How many pumpkin patches have you been to this year?" It really got me thinking. Am I living in this season the way I want to, or am I following the masses? Am I decorating in a way that brings me joy or am I buying things because someone else has it? Is there a right way to enjoy this season?

So let me tell you a few things I'm doing to live in the moment and celebrate this wonderful fall

season. First of all, I do decorate my home. I have two little kids plus two October birthdays in the house so this spooky season is fun for us! If it wasn't, we wouldn't do it. All of our decor is from years past which makes us repeaters, not trendsetters. Everything gets carefully stored when the season is over and gets reused the following year. I love watching my kids get giddy opening the bins as they remember where everything "goes" for the season."

Secondly, we enjoy the season with simple activities that bring us joy. A lot of these are outside, whether at a park, the zoo, or yes, a pumpkin patch. Getting outside makes our whole family happy so whether it's a new adventure or just a "fall leaf walk," we like it all. Fun can be free. Lastly, we celebrate the season in the kitchen. I always find it a fun challenge to cook with in-season food like squash and greens, but the fruit is the real show-stopper. Apples, pears, pomegranates, persimmons, grapes. If you were to leave me one thing of fall, it would be the food. It's such a mix of hearty and fresh while bringing so much variety! Filling my home with the smells of fall makes me feel connected to nature and grounded in the season. So let me leave you with one of my favorites: homemade applesauce. This



can be made from farm-picked apples or ones from the store. Choose apples that you like!

Here are our favorite ways to enjoy applesauce: on yogurt with granola, as a replacement for oil in recipes (adds great flavor too), in oatmeal, on pancakes instead of syrup. Enjoy!

Apple Sauce 101

- Wash, peel, core, and slice your apples (I typically use 5-6)
- Place apples into either a pot for the stove or an instant pot (opt for the stove if you want more aroma)
- Add a splash of lemon juice and 1/2 cup water to prevent burning
- Add spices (this is up to preference but I choose cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg, and cloves)
Cover and let simmer on low for hours until apples are soft and your house smells delicious! You may leave it chunky or blend it for smoother applesauce
- If it is too thin, I find that adding flax meal or cornstarch is the best way to thicken it up



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