

WOODWORKING

Step By Step Guide To Create Your First Woodworking Projects

Copyright © 2015, Akys Taylor Publishing

By Akys Taylor

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for the use of brief quotations in a book review or scholarly journal.

DISCLAIMER

Although the author and publisher have made every effort to ensure that the information in this book was correct at press time, the author and publisher do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause.

Bundle books:

- [Woodworking](#)
- [Tiny Houses Plans](#)
- [Tiny Houses Tips](#)
- [Tiny Houses](#)

Table of Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Chapter 1: Tool Talk](#)

[Chapter 2: Building a Bed Side Table](#)

[Chapter 3: Finishing the Bedside Table](#)

[Chapter 4: Refinishing a Chest of Drawers](#)

[Chapter 5: Spice Rack](#)

[Chapter 6: Pet Bowl Table](#)

[Chapter 7: Jewelry Box](#)

[Chapter 8: Making a Wood Clock](#)

[Conclusion](#)

Introduction

WAIT!

Before you start reading...

[=>> CLICK HERE <<=](#)

I promise it's not spam and I'm not trying to sell you anything.

[=>> CLICK HERE <<=](#)

Woodworking is therapeutic work that also gives you a sense of accomplishment. The trade seems to be dying out a little bit as old masters retire and new generations do not wish to take up the mantle. Thankfully, you realize how wonderful it can be to build your own furniture, storage cabinets, and other wood creations. The projects discussed in this book will provide you a step by step guide to help you create your own.

Before starting any project, it is necessary to have the right tools. A basic list of tools will get you going as you take up this hobby. As you start to learn about more projects or wish to create more complicated pieces you can start to add to your tool kit.

For now, as a beginner, it is better to spend as little as possible, while still being able to enjoy your hobby. At the end of each project, you will feel a sense of accomplishment and wish to start another.

There are literally thousands of woodworking projects you can take on, including some smaller projects like side tables, clocks, bookshelves, small storage boxes, and stools.

Let's take a journey where you will end up creating some wonderful small projects for your family, friends, or even to sell. Woodworking items are always great as Christmas, birthday, and special occasion gifts.

Chapter 1: Tool Talk

Tools are necessary for any woodworking project. You can start buying every tool that looks appealing and spend over \$10,000 to set up a woodworking shop. For anyone who has never used tools or may find they do not like woodworking as much as they thought, will regret spending so much.

In truth, you do not need to spend that much on your tools. With a few simple tools you can create some amazing projects. The Amish are a great example of how various sized hand saws, a hammer, measuring tape, square, pencil, and sand paper are really all you need.

For you the following tools are suggested to start:

- Small circular saw
- Table or bench that you can use for cutting wood
- Hammer
- Wood Glue
- Belt sander
- Miter Box
- Nails
- Measuring tape
- Pencil
- Small square
- Level

If you have the budget, I would spring for a nail gun and small air compressor. These items have come down in cost since they were first introduced and are easy to store. It will help you save a little time, versus using a hammer and nails.

For some of the projects, you will also want to buy a drill/screwdriver and various wood screws. With a drill/screwdriver, you can pre-drill holes and then use the screwdriver to sink the screws.

When you get to larger projects that require cutting large pieces of plywood in half or sheering off pieces for 2x10 board that is 10 ft. in length, you will want a table saw.

Small projects will not require it.

Tool Care

A part of buying the right tools for your projects is maintaining all of your tools.

Buy a tool box or create a wall storage system in your woodworking shop.

Make sure any place you are storing tools will be dry, to prevent rust on your tools.

If you live in a humid climate, consider a dehumidifier to keep your tools from rusting.

Each tool will have its own care needs.

For example, circular saws require oil from time to time, as do nail guns and belt sanders.

After each use, use a small brush to get the sawdust out of the tools and empty any bags that collect sawdust like belt sanders.

A part of woodworking is always the cleanup, storing your tools properly, and ensuring you conduct maintenance on your tools at least once a year if not twice a year. It depends on how much use your tools receive. Contractors building houses throughout the year will take a day to service all tools twice a year.

Chapter 2: Building a Bed Side Table

A bed side table needs to be functional and large enough to store items you want beside your bed. The following project was completed using left over tongue and groove siding. The table will also have a drawer.

Tools Required:

- Miter box
- Nail Gun
- Air Compressor
- Belt Sander
- 2 inch nails
- Paint, Stain or Lacquer if you want to finish it
- Measuring Tape
- Square
- Pencil
- Sand Paper

Determining the Material Needed

Step 1: Determine the dimensions for the bedside table. The example is 24x25 inches, by 6 inches deep. It was created based on the table lamp, plus the need for a drawer and area for shelving books.



Image 1: Bed Side Table

Step 2: Tongue and Groove siding comes in various lengths: 8, 10, and 12 ft. You can also buy it at different widths such as 6 or 8 inches wide. You can purchase boards based on how many you would need to create this project. The sides of the table are 25 inches, while the top and bottom are 24 inches. There are 2 full sized pieces on the back that fit between the bottom and top. The third piece has been cut to fit the remaining space. The drawer is 22 1/4 inches, by 5 1/2 inches deep. Three pieces of 22 1/4 inches and two 5 1/2 inch pieces were used for the drawer. If you add all that up, you have just under 25 ft. To be on the safe side, you should purchase enough material for 28 ft. of board.

Note: The above measurements are explaining the amount of board used for this specific project. You can obviously design your own plan to build a bed side table. As you can see in the picture, the lamp fits perfectly and there is plenty of space for other items you might wish to place on top of the table.

Measuring the Boards for Cutting

Step 3: Measure your board with the tape measure for 24 inches. Mark a line with the pencil, use a square to extend the line so you can make a straight cut on the miter box. Measure twice.

Step 4: Make the cut. Check the measurement. Always do your longest measurements first. Mark the end of the board that you will not see with “side.”

Step 5: Place the 24-inch board you just cut over the board you have yet to cut again. This way you know you have exactly 24 inches. You are going to need 7 pieces that are 24

inches long. Two will be the sides, two the top and bottom, and the other four are for the back. Mark them appropriately.

Note: You have the option of removing the tongue and groove from the boards. It would require ripping the boards. The original project does not require this as the tongue and groove provide character for the table. If you do not remove them or at least one or the other, this will affect how you fit the back.

Sanding the Wood and Finishing It

Step 6: Once you have all the boards cut to make the box for the table, it is time to smooth out the wood and any imperfections. Using your belt sander on both sides of the board, run the sander over each board. This will cut down on any splinters, imperfections in the wood such as gouges, and remove any dirt that might have gotten on the boards at the store.

Note: If you are going to stain or paint the wood, now is the time. After sanding, you want to ensure you have the stain or paint layer, so that you do not have to work in tight corners after it is put together. If you do this step, wait for the wood to dry before putting it together.

Building the Table Sides and Top

Step 7: It is time to put it together. You will make the drawer cuts later. Remember the height of your table is approximately 25 inches, but you cut the sides and back as 24. This is because you need to fit the sides and back underneath the top and bottom.

Place the bottom piece on the ground. Choose the side that you want to see. Now take a side piece and place the end on the bottom. You want the side piece to be flush with the outside edge of the bottom.

Note: Face the grooves the same way for both pieces. You do not want the tongue of the side piece to be in front if the front of the bottom piece is the groove. Reference image 1 to see how it is complete.

Nail it when it is flush and oriented correctly. Use 2 inch nails to avoid splitting the wood. Nail the board in place using two nails on either end, but far enough back so it will not split. Make sure you nail from the bottom, so when the table stands up the nails are hidden.

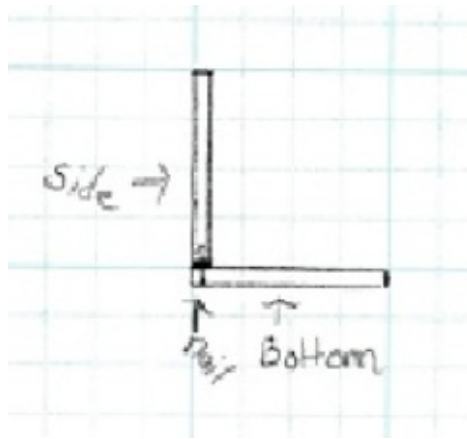


Figure 1: You can see the bottom, where the side is flush with it. This is how to orient the table.

Now grab the other side and orient it the same way, with the grooves facing the same way. It also needs to be flush and sitting on top of the bottom piece. Nail it in place like the other side.

Step 8: Get the top piece. Orient the grooves. The top piece will lay on top of the two sides, just as the bottom does. Make the sides flush with the outside edge of the top. Use two nails again being careful of splitting the wood.

Stabilizing the Table with the Back Pieces

Step 9: It is time for the back. The back will give your box stability. With the tongue remaining on the back of the boards, you will not fit the back flush. Instead, you will fit the outside edge of the back piece to be flush with the edge of the tongue. See the image below. Nail the piece in place. Nail down from the top into the back piece. Then nail the bottom in, going from the bottom piece into the back piece.

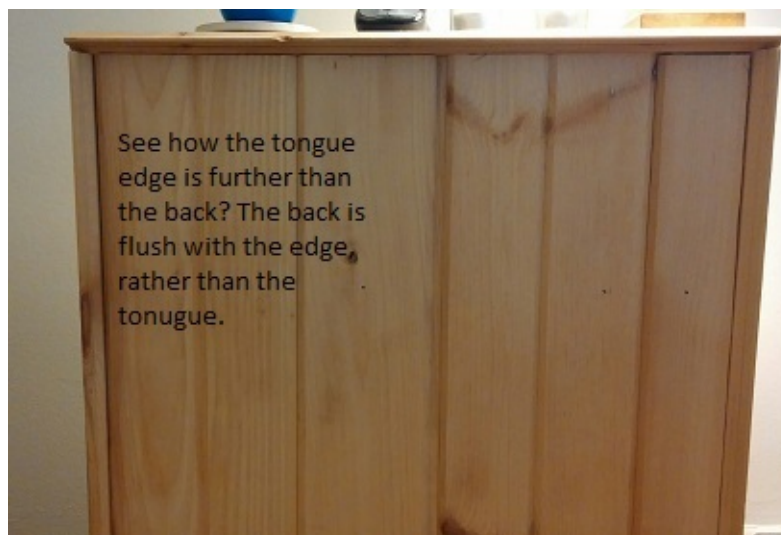


Image 2: Examine the spacing on the back. There are three back pieces, where one is

ripped to fit flush with the side. Also note the position of the pieces for the top and side for nailing.

Fit the next back piece, nail it in. The tongue and groove should fit together with no spacing.

You will still have one more piece to put in place. You are going to fit the tongue and groove together, but you will have to rip (cut the board) to fit in the remaining space. Measure the space from the edge of the tongue, where it fits seamlessly to the inside edge of the side.

Note: The reason you need to measure is to account for the interior width. The entire width is 24 inches from the outside edge. The side pieces are $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick, this means the interior has become $24 - 1 \frac{1}{5}$ inches, thus $22 \frac{1}{5}$ inches. Each board is 6 inches in width, thus the last board has to be cut to fit.

Chapter 3: Finishing the Bedside Table

The table is nearly complete. You have a box, with a back. Most people like to have drawers in their bedside table for little things like glasses, lip gloss, and lotions.

The drawer will need to fit flush with the front of the table. This means the depth of the drawer is less than the overall depth of the table.

The width of the table is 6 inches, but you need to measure the depth of the interior. It should be 5 ½ inches from the back to the exposed tongue. However, make certain you measure this to be accurate.

Also you need to account for how the drawer will fit.

You will have a back, bottom and front, plus two sides.

Tools Needed:

- Miter Saw
- Measuring Tape
- Pencil
- Square
- Nail gun and air compressor
- Belt Sander
- Finishing products (stain)
- Drawer Pull
- Sand Paper

Measuring for the Drawer

Step 1: Measure the length of the front, back and bottom.

From the inside edge put the measuring tape end against the side.

Run the tape out to the inside edge of the other side.



Image 3: Measuring the Length

Take the measurement. The side, bottom, and back of the drawer will all need to be cut to that measurement.

The sides of the drawer will fit inside the back and front pieces.

Step 2: For now, go with your length of the back, bottom, and front and make the three cuts.

Step 3: Now you need a depth measurement. Put the end of the tape against the back of the table and measure to the edge of the groove on the front. What is that measurement?



Image 4: Measuring for depth

Step 4: The depth is most likely $5 \frac{1}{2}$. For accuracy measure the back and front piece for width. Are the two pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick?

You need to subtract the thickness of the back and front board from the length of the side pieces.

If you have 5 ½ for the depth and ¾ inch for the front piece and ¾ for the back piece, then you subtract 1 ½ from 5 ½. The side piece will become 4 inches in length. This is the width of the actual interior of your drawer.

Step 5: Remember to sand the wood before you nail it together.

Step 6: You are not ready to nail the drawer together yet. The side pieces are going to fit between the back and front. This means the side pieces are flush with the back and front edges. The bottom of the drawer will also fit flush with the front and back piece. When the tongue and groove remain on the board it makes the board 7 inches. You also know that the overall depth from the back of the table to the front grove is 5 ½ inches.

The bottom piece needs to be ripped to fit inside the back and front piece. So rip the tongue and groove off first. Then measure to make certain the piece fits within the back and front, so the total drawer width is only 5 ½ inches.

You want the front piece flush with the front of the bedside table.

Step 7: You will need to rip the back piece too. The back needs to remain the same height as the front, but the back will need to be ripped to be flush with the bottom piece. In other words, take the groove off.

Step 8: The height of the side pieces needs to be ripped down as well. The side pieces will sit on top of the bottom piece and inside the back and front. Rip the groove off of the sides, as well as making certain the overall height is even with the front and back pieces.



Bottom of the drawer
Note the bottom
piece fits between
the front and back.

Image 5: Bottom of the drawer, same length as front and back, but cut to fit between.



Image 6: Notice the sides are flush with the top of the front and back of the drawer.

Here is the front of the drawer, which shows all you see is the front piece of tongue and groove siding, with a little knob to pull it open. The sides, back, and bottom are unseen when the drawer is in place.



Image 7: Front of the drawer

Step 9: You have cut all the pieces you need for the drawers. It is time to use nails to put it together. To avoid too many holes in the front, just tack it with one nail in each corner. The bottom piece will nail to the sides, the front to the sides, and the back to the sides.

Step 10: The back was ripped, so that you could slide the drawer out. Now it is time to put on the pieces where the drawer will sit. You just need some left over tongue and groove siding that is cut to the appropriate depth. Nail these two pieces to the sides of the table. They will hold the shelf up. The tongue on the front of the drawer hides the supports. Of course, before you actually nail them in place, measure from the top of the table, down.

You want the bottom of the drawer to rest on the supports, without causing a gap between the drawer and the top of the table.

Once you have your measurement, nail the pieces in place. Refer to the finished product:



Image 8: The finished product.

As you can see there is no gap between the drawer and top of the table. You can also see the small supports, holding the drawer in place.

Step 11: You can use the tongue to pull open the drawer or install a drawer pull. The image shows a small wooden box, with leather carved out. It was meant as a small jewelry box or other container. However, it made a nice drawer pull, as well as a way to keep a memento.

Chapter 4: Refinishing a Chest of Drawers

Woodworking projects are not always about building a new piece of furniture. What if you had a piece of furniture that you wanted to put to a different use? What if you found a piece of furniture at a Habitat for Humanity Restore, garage sale, or on the side of the road that could be used as a buffet? A great deal can sometimes be found in an old piece. Refinishing is woodworking too and while your project may vary, this one goes through the process undertaken. Many of the same steps can be followed for your refinishing project based on whether it has drawers, drawer slides, old paint or veneer, and damage to the wood.

Tools Needed:

- Belt Sander
- Sand Paper
- Nail gun/Air compressor
- 2 inch nails
- Miter Box
- Paint Cans
- Measuring Tape
- Pencil
- Square

The following project started with an 11-dollar buy at the Restore and became a beautiful oriental style buffet for dishes and teapots.

Quite a bit had to go into the restoration of this cabinet.



Image 1: The Old Cabinet



Image 2: The Back



Image 3: Drawer Issues: You can see where the drawer front broke off. It had to be fixed. Find out how.

As you can see from the three images, the cabinet is pretty beat up. The front pictures show the finish coming off, stickers, and broken wood. The back indicates the drawers are fairly derelict, as well as scrapping against the drawer supports.

Step 1: Being by removing all the drawers.

Step 2: remove the hardware, if any on your cabinet.

Step 3: Put a new piece of sand paper on your belt sander.

Step 4: Holding the sander, keep the movement even and slide over the top of the cabinet.

Let the sander do the work and remove all of the veneer finishing.

Continue to remove the veneer finishing for all sides and drawers.

Step 5: After the old stain is removed, it is time to use the belt sander again, only this time you are fixing the broken areas of the drawers.

Cutting off the part that has been chipped to make the drawer flush is another option. However, with the sander you can sand a nice edge around the entire drawer, so that everything matches.

You will also want to sand the edge of the cabinet top. This will remove any veneer remaining in the cracks as well as smooth the edges.

Of course, your cabinet may not have broken pieces off the drawers or top. For the example, the woodworker had to fix the damage.

Sanding is one of the most time consuming elements to this project. It can take 4 hours for this size chest of drawers, which is 9 drawers plus 6 feet of cabinet.

Step 6: For a cabinet of this type, the next step is to repair any damage to the drawers and cabinet that was not repaired with sanding.

The bottom of the cabinet drawers had to be stabled with a staple gun due to old staples falling out.

The sides and back of the drawers also needed a little hand sanding to even them out.

Basically, when repairing and refinishing a wood project, look for things that are damaged whether on the drawers or cabinets, then repair them.

Step 7: Before the drawers can slide correctly, the supports need to be fixed. Assuming the original woodworker used wood for the slides, you too, will need to replace these pieces.

If you look at the back of the cabinet, you will notice that the original slides were made to fit the front and back framing of the cabinet.

An easier fix is to cut 15 slides that fit between the framing of the cabinet.

Use 1x2 for the new slides.

Measure from the front support to the interior of the back support.

Cut the pieces, all should measure the same.

Nail two pieces on either side of the original slide for the six large drawers.

Nail one piece next to the original slide for the 3 small drawers.

You have new slides and can remove the old ones now.

Step 8: Test the drawers to make certain they are sliding better.

Once the veneer is removed and the mechanics of the drawers are fixed, along with any wood damage to the edges, you can move on to the refinishing portion.

Step 9: Clean the cabinet and drawers. Remove all dirt, sawdust, and other gunk that appeared as you were fixing the cabinet and returning it to natural wood color.

Step 10: For the size of this cabinet, 5 cans of black paint were necessary.

Each drawer was painted black.

The sides, front slates, and top were also painted black.

The color choice ensured only one coat was needed.

Step 10: Install the drawer pulls in the same holes as before. You can buy new pulls to fit the cabinet drawers.



Image 4: The Finished Look

Step 11: To finish the oriental theme, stick on cherry blossoms were placed on the drawers. The item was supposed to be a wall sticker, but it worked on the drawers.

Step 12: For the wheels, the width of the cabinet was measured. Two 2x4 pieces were nailed on the bottom and painted.

Four casters were then screwed into the 2x4, one for each corner.

The 2x4 was used as a way to secure the casters. The underside of the cabinet did not have anything to attach the wheels to.

Chapter 5: Spice Rack

For anyone who cooks a spice rack is important, whether it is designed for inside a cabinet or over the stove. This spice rack creation is designed to go over a stove.



Image 1: Complete Spice Rack

Since you already learned how to make a box for a bed side table you are now prepared for how this spice rack will go together.

Tools Needed:

- Miter Box
- Nail Gun/Air Compressor
- 2 inch nails
- Cabinet screws
- Drill
- Screwdriver

- Measuring tape
- Pencil
- Square
- Paint or stain
- Paint Brush

Step 1: Choosing materials is based on budget and preference. It can also be about what you have lying around.

A spice rack made with 1-inch-thick board is perfect. Spices also come in all different sizes, so limiting the shelf space is something you want to consider.

If you have a lot of spices, measure the various containers. Do you have some that are 2x2 inches? Some that take up only 1 inch of space?

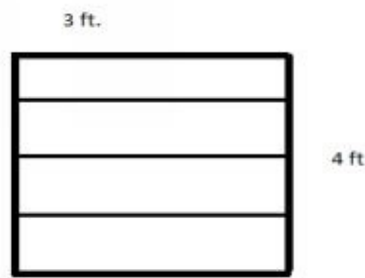
You do not want your spice rack to hang out to far, but 4 inches might be the perfect size.

A 1x4 board that is 12 ft. can also be the perfect amount of material for your spice rack depending on how high you want to make it.

Pine is easy to work with as a material and it also looks great finished or unfinished.

For the back of the spice rack consider a nice piece of pine plywood.

Step 2: Drawing the plan. You know you need a top, bottom and two sides. You also need to determine how many shelves. Three to four are often typical for a spice rack. The shelves should be spaced at different intervals to account for different heights in the spice jars.



Shelf height should vary to make room for taller spices, as well as accommodate standard sized jars.

Figure 1: Spice Rack Layout

Step 3: Follow the plan you came up with for your spice rack in terms of size. You will need to make the cuts for the bottom and sides.

For this example, we will assume the width is 3 feet and the height is 4 feet. You will need to cut two boards at 3 feet and 2 at 4 feet.

Remember always measure twice, and cut once.

Step 4: Nail the top to the two sides. Nail the sides flush with the edge of the top. Nail the bottom the same as the top. The sides should be on the inside, and flush with the very edge of the top and bottom.

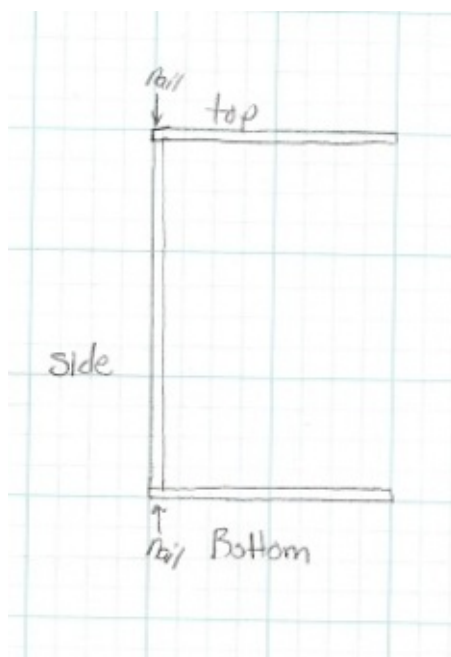


Figure 2: Nailing the Spice Rack together

Step 5: Once the four sides are nailed, it is time to put the back on. This is for stability. It also allows you to remove the spice rack from over the oven if you want to move it later. Use plywood for the back.

Measure from the outside edge of the left side to the outside edge of the right side. Mark down the width of the cabinet. It should be 3 feet. Also measure from the top and bottom to confirm you have the correct height. The measurement should be 4 feet 2 inches.

The reason the height is slightly bigger is because of the sides. You measured the sides at 4 feet, then you put the sides inside the top and bottom. The top and bottom boards are 1-inch-thick; thus you have to add 2 inches to the plywood measurement to account for that difference. You want the plywood to be flush with the top, bottom and sides, to nail it in place.

After the cut is made, check that the box is square by placing your tape on the diagonal. If necessary, square the box. Place the plywood on the back and start tacking it to the box.

Be careful not to miss the pine boards as you nail the back on.

Step 6: It is shelf time. Opposite of the back piece, the shelves have to fit between the sides. The sides are each an inch thick, so the interior measurement for the shelf length should be 3 feet minus 2 inches or 34 inches, since 3 ft. is 36 inches. However, always measure twice to make certain you have the appropriate measurements before you cut.

Step 7: Make the cuts.

Step 8: Measure for the height of the first shelf based on how you want to arrange the spices.

Step 9: Nail the shelf in place, by nailing from the side into the shelf.

Step 10: Keep repeating steps 8 and 9, until all shelves are in place.

Step 11: Installing the spice rack over the oven, you will want to have a drill, screwdriver, and cabinet screws.

Pre-drill four holes in each corner of the cabinet.

Have someone hold the spice rack up.

Make sure the rack is at the height you want it above the stove.

Place a level on top of the rack to make sure it is level.

Screw the spice rack to the wall behind the stove.

Step 12: Pre-drill two more holds into the side next to any kitchen cabinet already in place. Screw the spice rack to the cabinet.

You can start to load the rack.

Variation

Some individuals like to have a little holder on the front of each shelf. This little strip of wood keeps the spices from falling out. This is great if someone is putting the spice rack on a cabinet door that will be opened frequently.

You can use the same type of board and rip it to 2 inches.

You can also buy some decorative trim that is an inch or two wide.

The trim can be nailed to the front of the cabinet running flush with the sides.

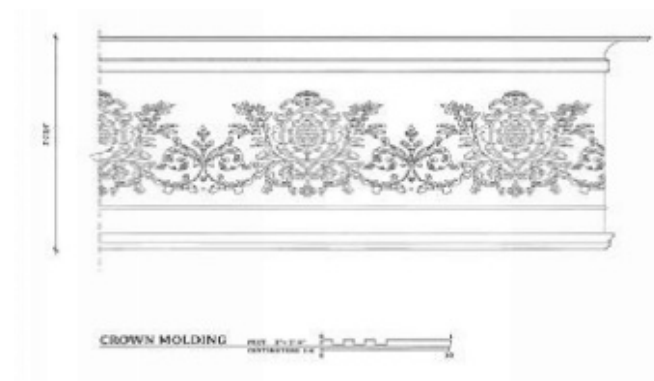


Image 2: Crown Molding (NPS Public Domain License)

The above is just one example of crown molding. However, any lumber company will have various trims for you to choose from that will work better for a flat edge.

If you are going with some sort of trimmed edge, make sure you keep the edging flush with the bottom edge of the shelf.

Chapter 6: Pet Bowl Table

Vets say it is good to have your pet's food off the floor for a number of reasons. One is to keep pests from easily accessing the bowl. The other is to help them eat without crouching over.

There are several solutions to pet food bowls. Some inventive individuals who custom make cabinets have a roll out draw that can be pulled out when it is feeding time.

Others go for a simple, yet decorative table. The following is an idea for a dog food table for a water and food dish.



Image 1: Dog Table for food dishes made of log

Depending on where you live it may be extremely easy to find logs that you can start to refinish for a nice decorative indoor dog food table.

For this project you will need a few tools you might not have, as well as your usual tools:

- Wood planer
- Bark Peelers
- Bark Spud
- Measuring Tape
- Pencil
- Square
- Drill
- Drill Bits
- Lacquer

The bark peeler and spud are both tools to remove bark from logs, as well as to peel layers of wood from the log.

A wood planer is also used to change the surface of wood, but it is used on flat surfaces.

Step 1: Finding the logs. Unless you live in an area, where you can chop down trees, you might need to find a place that sells log stumps rather than already cut firewood.

Step 2: Create a layout for your table. As you see in the above image, you need four legs that are sturdy, but not going to take up the entire under surface of the table.

The top also needs to be long enough to hold to standard dog bowls by the edges, so that the bowl can drop below the wood top.

Step 3: If you found a thin tree, such as one that is 2 inches in diameter, then your legs, will just need a little bark peeling.

Start by removing the branches.

Cut them off with a saw.

Use the bark peeler to remove all the bark from the tree.

Step 4: Grab a piece of sand paper. Do not use a power tool for this. Instead, use your arms for sanding. Sand the tree smooth. If you want you can leave little imperfections, but make sure they are smooth to the touch. You do not want anything to get caught on the rough edges of the wood.

Step 5: Once all the rough edges are sanded down and you are happy with the size and appearance of the wood, it is time to use a wood lacquer to protect the wood. The lacquer will also make the wood shiny and protect it from water damage.

Step 6: Measure the height of the legs you want for the table, keeping in mind the legs need to stick up about ½ inch from the top of the table.

Measure twice and then make a cut.

Cut four even pieces.

Step 6: Set the legs aside.

Making the Top of the Table

The table top will not come from the same tree, unless you cut down a very large tree and used the small top for the legs.

Step 1: From a round piece of tree, cut a 2-inch thick slice from the tree. It should be 2 inches thick by 2 ft. in length at least.

Step 2: Remove any remaining bark from the flat piece you cut out of the tree stump.

Step 3: Sand the wood, again by hand.

Step 4: You will need to make six round cuts in the table top before you lacquer the wood.

Four of the holes need to be the same diameter as your legs. There are wood drill bits that work for this. These drill bits are round already. If you do not have the round bits, then use a paddle drill bit.



Image 2: Paddle Drill Bit

Step 5: Bore four holes and test the size. You may need to finesse the hole a little due to abnormal wood shape. If the fit looks good for the legs, go on to the next step.

Step 6: Mark the holes for the dog food bowls, and find the center of the circle. Just use the bottom of the food bowls to draw the mark on the wood. Measure the distance from the edge of the table for the first bowl. Use the same distance from the other edge for the second bowl. Draw your lines if the two bowls are the same distance from the edge. Remember use the bottom of the bowl that is the part that has to fit through the hole, not the top with the lip. The lip will sit on the top of the table.

Step 7: A drill bit is not going to work for the next two holes. These are larger and you are going through two inches of wood. You are better off, using a saw. If you have soft wood, then you can drill a hole in the center of your diameter for the dog food bowl holes.

You can then use a jigsaw. Put the blade in the hole you created, and start cutting towards the edge of the mark you just made. Go around in a circle to cut out the piece of wood. Do the same for the next hole.

Step 8: Now that all cuts on your table top have been made, you are ready to lacquer the table top. Let the lacquer dry completely on all pieces for your table.

Step 9: Once dry, you are now ready to put the legs through the four leg holes. If it wants to go, but needs a little help, tap gently on the bottom of the leg. Do not force the leg

through the hole and damage the legs or table top. This is one reason to test the hole size before you finish the wood.

Step 10: Insert the dog food bowls and find a great place for your new dog food table.

Variations

A dog food table can be made to fit a cat's size. If you have cat's instead of dogs, then you just need to change the measurements of the table height, and size. You can still follow the same steps that you did with the dog food table pictured.

A nice thing about this project is that you do not need to have any nails or screws. The legs fit like pegs and the wood is sturdy enough to accommodate any weight that might be placed on it.

Chapter 7: Jewelry Box

Making a jewelry box is a common woodworking project for beginners. Many will start with a rectangular box that has a hinged lid. This one will be slightly different, all though you have plenty of choices. The image shows the shapes and sizes you can create, including an octagon style.



Image 1: Jewelry Box shapes and sizes

Tools Needed:

- Miter Saw
- Wood Glue
- Screw driver
- Hinges
- Metal Stripe, easy to work with and thin
- Clamps
- Measuring Tape
- Pencil
- Square
- Nail gun/Air compressor
- 2 inch nails

Step 1: Start off with a plan. This is an octagon, so you know it will at least have 8 sides of equal width, height, and length.

You need to decide how high you want the box for storing jewelry.

Also determine the overall size of the box. You might prefer a total diameter of 4 inches only or want something a little larger. The size of the box determines the top and bottom.

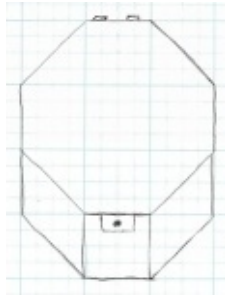


Figure 1: Octagon Jewelry box

Step 2: Choose the wood you will use. A 1x10 board can provide 10 inches of depth for your box, while keeping the sides an easy length. However, for miter box work, something smaller like 1x4 is easier to cut. Think ahead because you need to create angles for the side pieces, as well as make the top and bottom match those angles.

Note: Also pick up some metal. It should be very thin and easy to manipulate. The color is based on your preference for metal.

Step 3: From the plan you created, measure the sides and bottom pieces. Make sure to measure twice before you make a cut. Also bear in mind that your edges cannot be square. You have eight edges. This means you need to make your cut to fit appropriately.

The angle for each side of an octagon is 135 degrees. However, in wood cutting this is different. You will use a miter box, which means the angles only range from 0 to 90. Each wood piece you cut needs to have a 22.5-degree angle.

Setting up the Miter Saw

On the miter saw, turn the blade to 22.5 degrees.

Holding the piece of 1x4 up on its edge, make a cut moving from the top to the bottom of the 4 inches. Hold it like this | versus -. This makes the cut on the edge at 22.5 degrees.

Make sure you make the same directional cut for the other side of the board. In other words, do not flip the board and have the long and short sides of the cut on opposite sides.

Cut all sides.

Note: Piecing the sides together is a little tough. The angle makes it difficult to use nails. Nails can easily split the wood at the edges. For this reason, most woodworkers use glue and do not use nails when it comes to octagonal angles.

You will need to use clamps to keep the edges together while the wood dries. But, this will come in a moment.

Step 3: Cut out the top and bottom of the box. The top and bottom will be flush with the outside edges.

You will take two pieces of board that is large than your octagon shape by 2 inches on each side. Place them together and clamp them.

Mark the octagon measurements for the box on the top piece.

Taking a circular saw cut off the extra wood, making the 8 sides of the octagon.

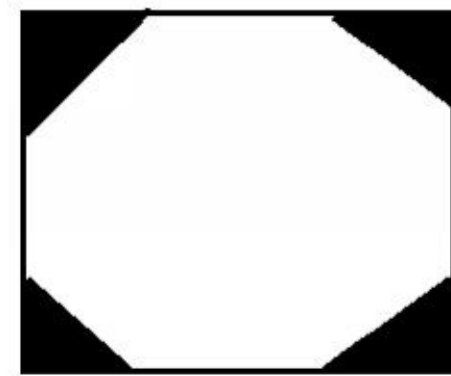


Figure 2: Cutting the top and bottom

The figure shows that you need to cut the black edges off to make the octagon top and bottom. Make 4 cuts and you have the top and bottom, as long as you clamp the top and bottom wood together, you will get two pieces with the appropriate edges.

Step 4: Sand all pieces of wood.

Step 5: To secure the box, you will need to take the bottom piece you cut out and secure it with nails to each side piece. You can use nails for this part.

Clamp edge 1 to your table in a standing position, so the edge can be made flush with the bottom piece.

Nail it.

Put the opposite edge underneath, make it flush with the bottom edge, and nail it.

Now you can grab another edge. When you put two edges together run a bead of glue down both edges of the piece you are about to nail. Make sure the edges are flush, then nail it in place.

Each time you put an edge together, you need to run glue.

Once the bottom is nailed to each edge, flip the box.

Your edges may move a little since there is nothing to secure them.

Step 6: Measure and cut 4 boards, any material, to the inside width of the box.

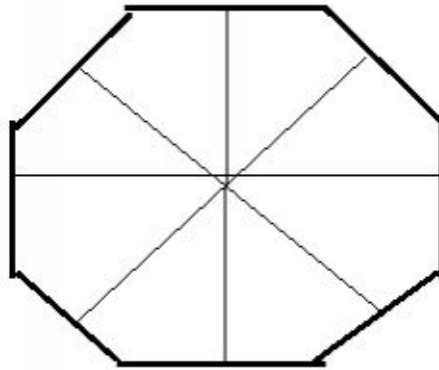


Figure 3: Bracing the Edges

The four pieces will work as a brace for the inside of the box. Do not worry if the sides are tilting outward.

Step 7: Remember the metal you picked up before starting this project? You need to grab that now. Choose which side is the back of the box.

To the end of the metal drill a hole through it. It just needs to be a small hole for a finish nail to fit through. The finish nail will be 1-inch thick.

Wrap the metal around the box, but do not secure the first end.

Check all eight edges to ensure they are now flush, as you pull the metal around each corner.

Bend the metal so it is flush with the end.

When the metal is wrapped around the box, where the other end is, cut it to be flush with the other end.

Drill a hole in the new end you just cut.

Now secure one end with a nail.

Wrap the metal around the top of the box.

Make sure the bends are tight and the edges are flush.

Secure the second end with a nail.

Note: If necessary, you can drill more holes $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from each edge to make sure the metal

remains secured in place with a nail.

It will depend on whether the metal is keeping the edges in place or not conforming to the edges. Make the extra holes before you secure the metal ends in place.

Step 8: Let the glue dry.

After 2 or 3 days check to see if the glue is dry.

Remove the interior supports.

Step 9: The hinges will go on the inside of the box, so you do not see the hinges. Secure the hinges to the box first. This will help you space the hinges correctly, and avoid the nails you used for the metal strip.

Step 10: Secure the hinges to the lid.

Step 11: Cut out a piece of felt that fits inside the box. Glue the felt piece to the bottom of the box.

Step 12: If you would like to, create little boxes inside. You can use the supports, cut them down to create the individual boxes inside.

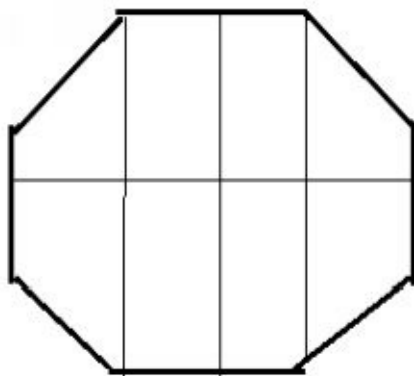


Figure 4: Creating interior boxes

The best way to create the interior boxes is to cut the pieces to fit the entire length.

Then create a notch in each piece where the middle piece will transect the three vertical pieces. Notch the three pieces by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, then make three notches in the horizontal piece that fits $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

They will fit together and also be removable.

Step 13: Decide if you want to stain the outside of the box or paint it.

Variations

There are many things you can do with a jewelry box. Just look at the image of sizes and

you will see you can create boxes using stone, lacquer and other materials to give it a beautiful, decorative look on the outside.

You can also use a router to create different edging on the top before you secure it in place. You can router the edges, as well as router a pattern in the top.

Using a wood burning tool, you can also etch a name or other design into the top and sides of the box before you finish it with lacquer.

Your imagination will be the only thing holding you back with any of your wood finishes.

Chapter 8: Making a Wood Clock

Another simple woodworking option is to make a clock. There are several types of wood clocks from a simple 2 inch round piece of elm, fir, oak, or pine from a tree stump to the more complicated in shape.

Here is just one suggestion:



Image 1: Ying Yang Clock

It is a Ying Yang Clock made of wood.

Tools Needed:

- Jig Saw
- Wood Glue
- Cork Board
- Plywood $\frac{3}{4}$ inch
- Plywood Laminate $\frac{1}{4}$ inch
- Clock Parts
- Chisel

Clock parts can be ordered from online or found in most craft stores. The clock parts should be small, enough to fit into the back of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plywood.

Step 1: From a leftover piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plywood or a new sheet, create a circle. The circumference of that circle is up to you. A good clock is about 8 inches in diameter.

Measure using a compass. Set the compass in the center of the board and move it out 8 inches. Turn it to form a circle on the plywood.

Step 2: The point from the compass should have left an impression in the wood. Using that point, drill a hole all the way to the back.

Step 3: From the center of the hole, place the back of the clock parts. Outline the clock parts on the board.

Remove the clock parts.

Using a hammer and chisel start to slowly work out the wood in an even layer. Remain inside the outline you just drew.

Be careful not to go too far that you punch through the other side.

Test the clock parts to see if you have a deep enough hole.

Ideally, you want the clock parts to be flush with the back of the clock. If it is not that is okay because the clock will need to secure to the wall with some type of wall hanger. This means the clock parts may not be too far out from the board and interfere when you hang it.

Step 4: On the laminate, draw the Ying symbol. You may need to create the full symbol on a piece of paper and make cut outs to trace, so that you can draw the symbols on the laminate and the cork board. You can always use the compass to first draw a circle that is the same circumference as the clock, then make a smaller circle at one point and create a second smaller circle to meet in the middle of the first small circle. Then you can erase the lines that do not fit the Ying Yang symbol.

The two images below show how you can use a glass to create the Ying and yang symbol.



Image 2 and 3: The glass offers the perfect half circle. When placed on the Yang it creates one half circle, when on the Ying the proper motion of the mid-line is formed.

Step 5: Cut out the Ying on the laminate after the correct symbol is drawn.

Step 6: Draw the Yang on the cork board.

Step 7: Cut out the Yang.

Step 8: Fit the two pieces together correctly on the clock face. Check to make sure each side is flush.

Step 9: Glue the two pieces to the thicker plywood.

Step 10: Now make a smaller circle in the half circle of the Ying and Yang. Do this by cutting out a small circle from the laminate. Using the same circumference draw and cut a circle from the cork board.

Step 11: Glue those pieces on the appropriate side.

Step 12: Install the clock parts, with the clock hands showing on the front of the clock.

Conclusion

Thank you for purchasing this book!

I hope this book was able to help you in you become a better woodworker. There is going to be a learning curve. As you may have noticed in the first project the cuts were not always perfect. It also has to do with the tools you have. A lack of table saw for ripping boards can make uneven cuts; particularly, when using a circular saw.

It is okay if your first projects go a little slow or not as perfect as you hoped. We all have to learn. These are also suggested projects. You will notice the steps are fairly similar, in that you have a project in mind, you create a plan for it, and then determine the materials you want to use.

Once you have the materials, you measure twice, before you make any cuts. With woodworking the finishes, you use will always depend on what you like most. Many people like natural wood or light staining to protect the wood from water damage.

Finally, if you enjoyed this book, please take the time to share your thoughts and post a review. It would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you and good luck!

TINY HOUSES

Build Your Very First Tiny House With These Woodworking Plans

Copyright © 2015, Akys Taylor Publishing

By Akys Taylor

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for the use of brief quotations in a book review or scholarly journal.

DISCLAIMER

Although the author and publisher have made every effort to ensure that the information in this book was correct at press time, the author and publisher do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause.

Table of Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Chapter 1: House Plans](#)

[Chapter 2: Framing Your Home](#)

[Chapter 3: The Roof and Making the Home Dried In](#)

[Chapter 4: Installing The Doors And Windows](#)

[Chapter 5: Siding Installation](#)

[Chapter 6: Interior Work](#)

[Conclusion](#)

Introduction

Today's young couples and families are finding affordability and independence are the keys to a happier life. Going tiny is the way to own a home, without a mortgage or at least gaining a small, affordable mortgage.

Plenty of people are getting on board with the tiny house movement, and you have just picked up a tool to get you started. You will discover tiny house plans that give you an idea of what your options are for going tiny.

You will also be given pictures and step by step instructions to build your own tiny house based on at least one of the plans provided in the first chapter of this book.

By the end of this book, you will know exactly how to craft your very own tiny home. Of course, you still have to find out the building codes based on the state you live in.

All plans must be approved by your local building inspector. You will also need to have your building inspector come out at various stages to approve the work you have done.

Unless you are a licensed plumber or electrician, or both, you will need to fit this work into your budget. Most states do not allow for homeowners to do their own wiring and plumbing, although they do allow you to build your home.

Your budget is going to determine what you can do with your home, as well as the size it can be. Now it's time to get started with your very own tiny home.

Chapter 1: House Plans

The tiny home movement considers a tiny home to be the smallest livable structure up to 700 sq. ft. Anything larger than 700 square feet and it is the size of a one to two-bedroom apartment. Of course, this high square foot number is based on personal preference. There are those who believe tiny is under 300 sq. ft. and nothing larger.

The house plans below will fit into the 96 sq. ft. to 600 sq. ft. mark. Two of the plans are stationary and will require a foundation, while the first, and smallest is built for a trailer.

The great thing about tiny house plans is being able to choose a size and mobility, you want as long as it fits certain restrictions.

Tiny House Plan 1: On Wheels

This tiny house is 8 ft. (width) x 12 ft. (length) x 13.5 ft. (height). It sits on a trailer, which has determined the dimensions. Any trailer home must be within 13.5 ft. high to be considered legal, as well as to get a license for the trailer.

Image 1: Tiny House on Wheels



Author Credit: Guillaume Dutilh. Creative Commons License.



Figure 1: 96 sq. ft. Tiny House

The design of this floor plan allows for a sleeping loft, as well as a small storage loft. It can also be created without any loft. The determining factor is how you want your bed to be. There are pull out couches and futons that can be custom made for tiny houses. You would need to pull your bed out each night and then use the couch for sitting on during the day. Another option is to build up the floor of your kitchen, and roll out the bed each night. The bed would fit under the floor, pull out, and can remain made.

You do want to think about how much work goes into everyday living in a small house. Do you want to pull out the bed each day or would it be easier to climb down steps or a ladder from a loft? It might seem great to have no sleeping loft, until day in and day out you are moving your bed out of the way just to move in your tiny home.

Resell value should also be a concern when it comes to the three plans. Selling a trailer home of 96 sq. ft. may seem easy now since the tiny house movement is so popular; however, in five years you may not be able to find anyone willing to buy such a small home.

It also goes into the amount you are going to spend on your build. If you spend all your savings of \$50,000 on 96 sq. ft., find a partner, get married and have a child, your tiny home is probably going to seem too small and all your savings will be gone.

Tiny House Plan 2: Stationary 200 square feet

A comfortable house size for most tiny house lovers is 200 square feet. A stationary design

provides more choices in width than a trailer tiny house; however, you could design this 200 sq. ft., so it fits on a trailer. With trailer tiny houses you can go up to 40 feet in length. This is the standard flatbed trailer size. For those who do not want to move their home, building it into a square shape versus a rectangle may feel more comfortable.

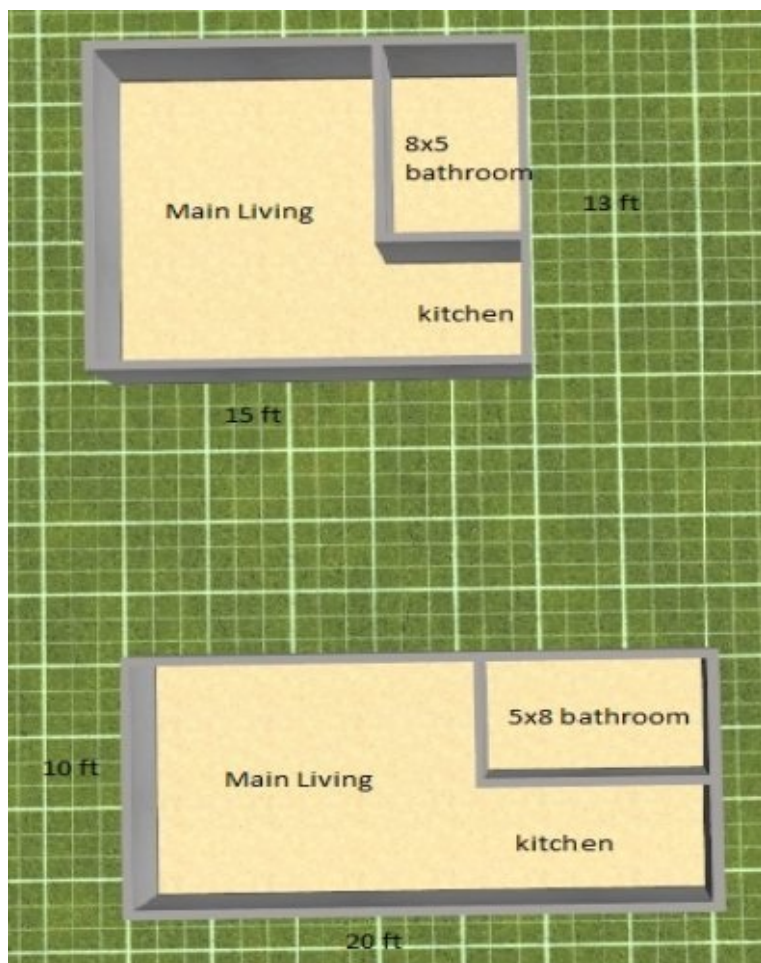


Figure 2: 200 sq. ft. Tiny House

With a 200 sq. ft. stationary home, you also have more options for sleeping arrangements. The square footage is based on the foundation size you need, not on how high you make the home. You could build two complete stories. Obviously, if you build another story you would gain 400 sq. ft. total, but the point is the foundation pad would be 200 sq. ft. and you have the option of gaining more space if you need it.

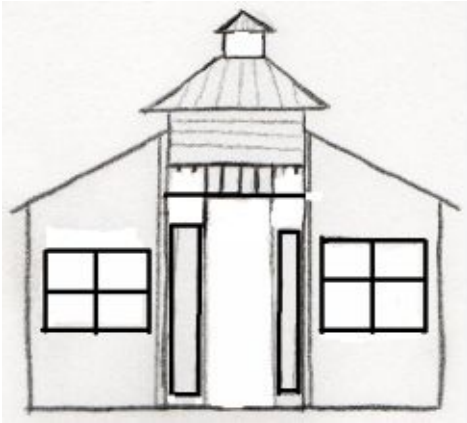
Like, the 96 sq. ft. tiny home, you can build lofts into your home. You would be able to build two larger lofts, as well as have a knee high wall that would provide more headroom. In fact, you could have 4 feet of a knee high wall, then build your rafters and support beam going up from the loft wall.

The budget will always determine the amount you spend on your build. You may have the budget for only 200 sq. ft. and one floor, with no lofts or second story.

Tiny House Plan 3: Family Space

For this tiny house plan, the idea is to provide you with more space for a larger family or for the claustrophobic in you. This house can provide you with more rooms, relaxation space and a full bathroom. It is still smaller than many of the homes most people are living in today.

Image 2: Family Tiny House



This particle home has two barn doors that are currently open, but close to cover the upper windows and French doors. It provides a nice entry and sight lines.



Figure 3: 588 sq. ft. Tiny House

At 588 sq. ft. you have a lot of room to play and design a home that will work for you. The size is too large for it to be anything but stationary. The most that has been put on a trailer is 400 sq. ft. and that was with loft space to create 400 sq. ft. of livable space. For the trailer floor you would have 320 sq. ft. and the lofts would make up another 80 sq. ft.

This tiny house plan provides one floor of living space, as well as an outdoor space. However, you could easily change the screened in porch to another room.

The plans above are just suggested floor plan options. You can adapt them to fit your style and would need to higher an architect or engineer to ensure you have the full house plan drawn up to proper specifications.

Trailer Rules

Besides length, width, and height, there are also weight restrictions when it comes to trailers. You do not want to go out and buy the cheapest trailer you can find and expect it to hold up a tiny house. Trailers require a certain number of axles to support the weight of a tiny house. The good news is when you purchase a trailer you will be told the maximum load in weight that you can haul. You can also speak with a representative regarding your tiny house and its weight distribution to ensure the trailer would hold up to the weight.

Front Load the Trailer

Anytime you speak with a moving company, trailer manufacturer or someone in the same line of work, they will tell you to put the weight distribution as evenly as possible, but to have the most weight on the front of the trailer.

The house plans above show the bathroom towards the back, with the kitchens over the axle area and then the living room as the last space. This is because kitchens and baths will weigh more than a few furniture pieces. It also ensures the weight load is on the front to keep the trailer on the ground.

Think about the goofy cartoons, where the trail was end heavy, so when it was taken off the hitch the trailer's back end hit the ground and the tongue was in the sky. You could make this happen if you put more weight on the back of the tiny house than towards the hitch of the trailer.

Foundations and Homes

The rest of this book is going to focus more on a foundation home, versus building on a trailer. Unless, you are a mason, have done masonry work, or construction work, you should hire a professional to build your foundation.

There are a couple of options. You can use a concrete slab, where rebar is set in the concrete. These are your posts that the walls attach to, along with using concrete nails.

You can also create pilings at various intervals and attach the floor of your home. You would do this if you do not want to create a crawlspace, but would rather have the house raised off the ground. Pilings are typically used in flood plains to ensure the house is high enough should the area become flooded.

The other option is using concrete block and rebar. You would create the foundation to the sq. ft. size and build the floor on top of the blocks. This creates a crawl space underneath the house. You would need to have access via the concrete blocks or build into the floor of your home. Most people build an access door with the concrete blocks around it.

Speak with your masonry or excavation expert to determine what style of foundation will be best for your tiny house.

Chapter 2: Framing Your Home

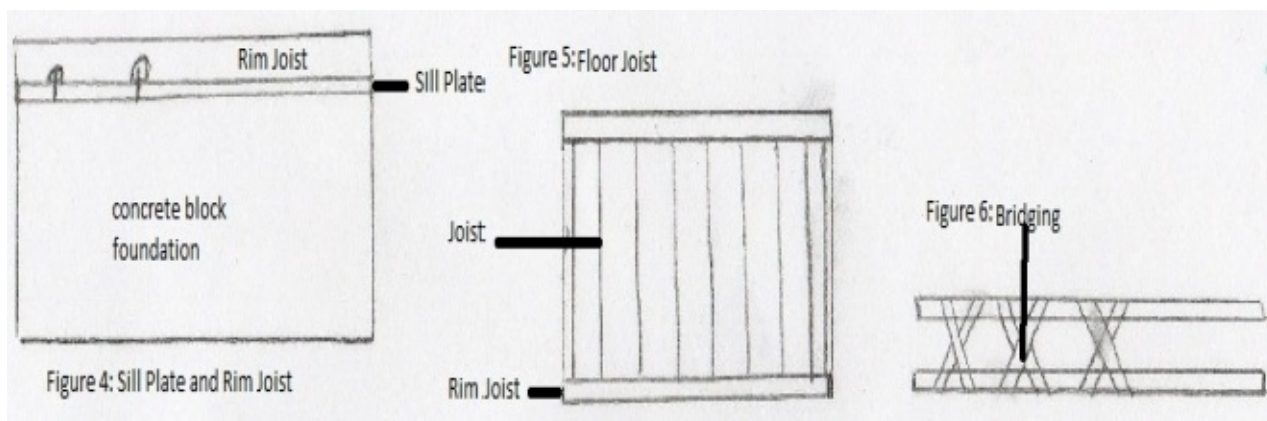
You are ready to start building your home, once you have the foundation in place. This chapter is going to assume you have done the foundation work and are now ready to start building your floor, exterior walls, any lofts, and the roof.

Building your Floor

The work will begin with the floor. We will outline the floor based on a concrete block foundation.

Step 1: Sill Plate, Rim Joists, and Joists

On top of the concrete foundation or concrete block foundation, you will need to lay your sill plate. This is the sub-floor. The sill plate sits on the concrete block, lying flat and is attached with nuts to the bolts. You also need to use wood glue between the concrete blocks and sill plate. The glue acts as a barrier, ensuring the crawl space will remain dry. Assuming you will build the 10x20 sq. ft. home, for 200 sq. ft. of floor space, you need to anchor the sill plate every 3 feet based on joist spacing of 12 inches.



Your sub floor will be constructed using treated materials to prevent rot. This means you need to purchase 2x8 treated wood for the sill plate, 2x10 rim joist, and 2x10 joists. You will need to run the rim joist along the 20 foot and 10 foot walls. The joists will run parallel with the 10-foot span for simplicity. This means they run perpendicular to the 20-foot span.

The first joist will run parallel with the 10-foot rim joist. Nail it to the rim joist. You will

also nail a joist to the other 10-foot rim joist. It doubles up the outer edge, reinforcing it, as well as providing a proper pattern for the joists in terms of laying the plywood.

When you install the joist you will need to do two things. You will need to use a joist hanger and use bridging. Although figure 6 shows three bridges on a single span it was only to indicate the X pattern required. In actuality the bridge can be placed once at 5 feet on each joist. Bridging helps stabilize the joist movement.

Your foundation expert would have indicated if pillars and a support beam was needed in the middle of the 10-foot span. Typically, you will not need a 20-foot beam in the center of the floor; especially if you are using bridging.



Image 3: Sub Floor with sill plate, rim joist, and joists (Creative Commons Credit: Zachilptom and Flickr)



Image 4: Joists (Creative Commons Credit: Bryn Pinzgauer)



Image 5: Joist Hanger and Double Rim Joist (Creative Commons Credit: ArmchairBuilder.com)

The joist hanger in this image must be used to attach your joists to the rim joist. You will use roofing nails to attach the 5 nails to the rim joist and 3 nails to attach the joist hanger to the joist, per side. You will need to use a joist hanger on both ends of the joist.

Step 2: Installing Plywood Subfloor

The subfloor is only complete after it has been covered with plywood.

Take one sheet of plywood, 4x8 ft., and lay it out from one corner of the rim joist. It should lay perpendicular to the joists.

Make the plywood flush with the corner and edges.

Check to make sure the plywood ends on a half a joist. If it does not, you will need to cut it down to ensure it does.

Figure 7: Plywood Layout

Before nailing the floor to the joists, run construction glue along each joist. Go out 4 feet on the joist and make certain you glue each joist. Put the plywood in place, checking again that it is flush.

Nail it with 16 penny nails. Since you can see the joist you should be able to hit the center of the joist. However, check to make certain you have not missed any nails. If the nail misses the joist, but is close the floor will squeak. Additionally, loose plywood on a joist will eventually cause a squeak. Pull any nails that miss. This is particularly important on the end that meets half way on the joist.

Once the first piece is in, place another in that same line. Keep going making sure all pieces begin and end on a joist, and that the last piece in that row is flush with the rim joist.

Your home is 20-foot by 10-foot, so when you lay the plywood going parallel with the 20-foot wall, you are extending the first plywood 8 feet (sheets are 4x8). The next piece will also be the full length. This will make 16 ft. The third piece will need to be cut in half at 4 ft. to cover the rest of the joists and run flush.

Set the 4 ft. half you did not use aside. Grab a full sheet of plywood, and starting on the end where you just placed the 4ft. piece begin another row. This will stagger your joints and at the end of that row, you will use the 4 ft. piece you have left.

Next, cut the plywood in half lengthwise, so you have a 2x8 piece of plywood. Since your home is 20x10 foot you have a distance of 10 ft. to cover for width. You already used two rows of 4ft that makes 8 ft., leaving you with 2 ft. to cover. You also want to stagger the joints, so run the 2 pieces of 2x8 plywood and then have a 2x4 piece for the other end.

Exterior Walls

The sub floor is complete with the plywood in place. Now is the time to start building exterior walls. Since this is a tiny house, the walls will be constructed differently. Normally, you frame the wall and stand it up, but in this explanation there will be one more step, which is the sheathing that is put in place before you stand the wall up.

Step 1: Create 10-Foot Walls

Creating 10-foot walls makes it easy to stand them up when you are ready. You will need a partner for this. Your wall will be standard stud height, which is 92 5/8 inches. This creates an 8-foot ceiling. You are also going to use 2x4's for the walls. With larger homes, it is better to use 2x6 walls. To ensure you have the most room on the interior space, you want to use 2x4s. It saves 2 inches in wall width.

First lay out your bottom and top plate.

Hold the bottom and top plate together.

The following will show you the way to begin the layout.



Figure 8: Layout: notice the beginning has two |X marks|. In between is where your filler block will go. Measure $15 \frac{1}{4}$ from the end of the board and then from the third |X| measure 16 for the rest of the wall.

Mark the end of the board with an |X|, then measure 4 inches and place the second |X|. This is going to create a wall tie, which is necessary for all four corners of your home. The wall ties ensure you have something to nail to, when you put the next wall up. This also means you need a wall tie between the joint on the 20 ft. wall. Reference Image 6 to see the wall tie. It is the two 2x4's that are close together with three 2x4's facing flush with the edge of the studs.



Image 6: See the 2x4s that have three 2x4s running perpendicular to the studs in the walls? That is the wall tie. (Reference Image 7 for creative commons license).

Use a square to ensure you get both the top and bottom plate measured correctly and your line drawn. Keep the measuring tape on the edge and make a mark at $15 \frac{1}{4}$ inches. This is your next stud. From, this point you will measure 16 inches. Every sixteen inches draw a line and this will create your studs sixteen inches on center.

The first stud will line up with the edge of the top and bottom plate. In between this stud you will place $\frac{1}{4}$ inch plywood. The plywood should be 4 inches in length by 4 inches wide.

Tack it onto the first stud. On the other side of this you will place another stud. The other stud should line up with the line you drew to make 16 inch on center for the next stud.

Before tacking the next stud test that your measurements are correct.

Move along the wall creating your wall.

The other end of the wall will be one stud. It will be flush with the top and bottom plate.

Not all of the walls will be this easy. You are going to have doors and windows to put in.

Doors and windows require headers. The way to measure your wall for the doors and headers is the same; however, you will create a rough opening.

Your plans should show the measurements of where you want the doors and windows placed.

Mark out your top and bottom plate to account for the raw openings.

Note: Bear in mind when you are measuring out your walls, you have to account for the corners. Your first stretch of wall at 10 feet is fine; however, from then on, you want to make certain Your top and bottom plate are measured to fit in the next space. If you do not shorten the 10-foot side wall by a four inches to account for the 2x4 width of the other wall, you will have an overhang. You always want your exterior walls to be flush with the foundation and corners.

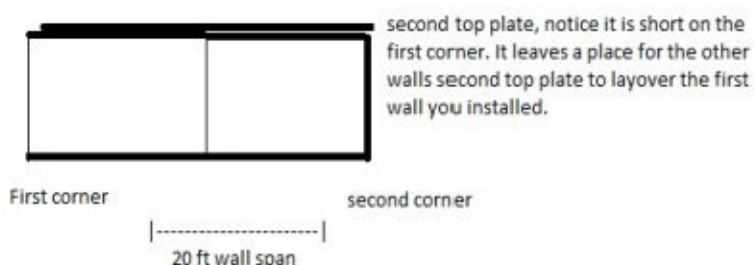


Figure 8: Fitting the Wall and putting the second top plate on. Reference the note in the figure and at the end of this chapter.

How to Make a Header

A header is used above doors and windows. The following is just one way to make a header. For smaller windows and doors, you can use a different construction.

In this case you have 12 inches from the top plate due to the window size. However, you can also create the header sitting tight against the top plate. You would have the cripples running between two pieces of 2x10, then measure the jack stud to the window measurement. If the window is 4 foot in length, 4-foot width, then you would need a header opening that is 4x4 sq. ft. The jack stud when measure from the header to the bottom plate of the window opening. See image 7 to view a complete header.

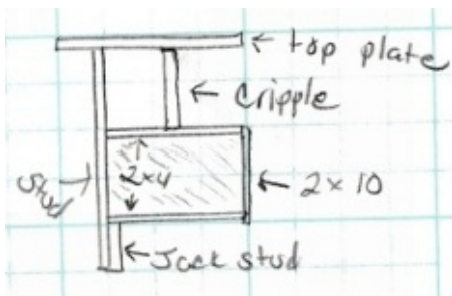


Figure 9: Header Construction



Image 7: Complete Header—Also shows a completed wall with rough opening for two windows. (Marshall Brian, How House Construction Works, April 1, 2000. Creative Commons License.)

Step 2: Sheathing

At this point you have the door and window rough openings, and all walls made. Now is the time to put on the sheathing. It is sheets of plywood that will run 4 feet wide and 8 feet in length.

The plywood will be short of the top plate since you will need to cover the bottom plate. You will run a strip on the top later.

For now, cover all the walls with plywood sheathing. Take a tape measure from the top corner to the bottom corner going diagonal before you put the first piece on. Also do the same from the other top corner. You want to make certain the wall is square before you start sheathing the wall.

Do not worry about cutting out the rough openings for the doors and windows. Contractors cover the openings, then once everything is in place, they cut out the rough openings.

If you feel more confident about measuring the plywood around the window opening, you can do that. However, it takes more time to get the sheathing in place, than later going back and cutting out the windows. Additionally, you may not be able to get the doors and windows installed the same day you erect the walls. Keeping the plywood over the windows, ensures the interior remains dry.

If you have one door opening, such as a French door, you can go ahead and skip that area with plywood. You need to be able to get out of the house once the walls are erected. Any other door openings can remain closed off.

Step 3: Installing the Exterior Walls

You are going to put up one 10-foot wall at a time. You will need at least one other person to help you hold the wall, while you get your supports in place.

You will nail the bottom plate to the floor, making sure the wall is flush on the outside and flush with the corner.

Run a support on the third stud from the corner edge. Tack it in place at the top against the stud, and for the floor use a short 2x4 on the floor and brace the stud against it. Do the same on the other end of the wall.

The brace will keep the wall steady for the next wall.

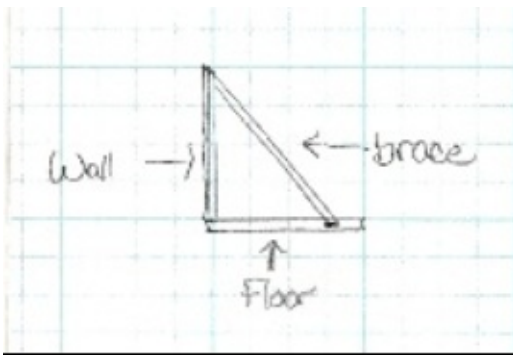


Figure 10: Bracing the Wall

When you get the next portion of the wall up, you are going to install a secondary top plate.

It should be 4 inches back from the corner and be long enough to run onto the next wall.

When you make the corner with your third wall, the second top plate will run over the wall already in place and become flush with the exterior. This holds the walls together. Each wall will have a secondary top plate, which will fit according to the measurements you make.

Notes:

Check figure 8 to see how the top plate overlaps.

Leave the braces on. Your braces will not come off until the roof is in place and you have put up your interior walls.

Interior Wall

Once the exterior walls are in place, you can start to create the interior walls. You have already decided how the interior wall layout will be. However, since we did not full discuss options at the beginning, know that you have a couple of ways to create your tiny home plan with a bathroom.

Depending on how wide you want your bathroom space, you have a couple of options. You can create a 10-foot by 5-foot bathroom, which gives you a nice shower, plus room for the toilet, double vanity and closet space.

However, if you want to leave more living space, you could do a 5x5 or 5x7 bathroom with a little laundry area or bed nook. A 5x5 space for a bed would be tight, but it would keep the bed available. The kitchen and living area would be open concept.

With a 5x10 bathroom, you also save on materials and only have to build one wall, with

one door. It is easier for the building process. The interior walls need to be in place before you install the roof.

Chapter 3: The Roof and Making the Home Dried In

If you are going to install a loft, there will be more work to do. To make this simple and a DIY project, building a loft will not be discussed.

Getting the Trusses Installed

The roof is easiest when you build with trusses. First, it creates an attic space. Second, trusses are easier than creating a roof with a long beam and then running your roof supports. The trusses you can purchase come in a variety of pitches. An 8-12 pitch is common.

Roof construction will be determined by the area you live in. For mountain regions, with a lot of snow and ice, the roof has to sustain a certain snow load. In warmer climates, where hurricanes are common, you need to account for high winds.

For ease, trusses should run parallel with the 10-foot span.

Lift your trusses into place, by hanging the truss upside down. This makes it easier to grab. Use rope to help lift it or if you have the budget hire a machine to help lift the trusses.

Install a truss at a time based on a 16 to 24-inch span between each truss. The more trusses the more stable your roof; however, you only need 24 inches between each trust for most building codes. Using truss hangers secure the trusses in place.

The bracket or hanger for the trusses is a close relation to the joist hanger. The sizing is different. A local lumber company can help you pick up the right truss hanger for your roof.

Sheeting the Roof

Like the floor and walls, you need to use plywood to sheet the roof. Plywood will run parallel to the ground, meaning the 8-foot span goes from the corner of the roof to the middle of a truss support.

The first plywood sheet needs to overhang. The truss will overhang the exterior wall. You can make the plywood flush with the truss. In fact, the truss is engineered to create your

overhang for the eaves.

Cover the first row of plywood, so you have somewhere to stand as you move your way up to the ridge line. You may need to cut plywood to fit, so that each truss has the joint between the plywood pieces.

The next plywood row will then go up. As always stagger the next row.

With plywood you will use H clips in between the plywood pieces as you head to the ridge. This keeps the plywood in place.

Before completing the row that would take you to the very top of the ridge, you need to measure your plywood to leave a little breathing space. In general, your roof layout should account for this space. This breathing space will be covered with a ridge cap of shingles.

Once you reach the ridge, move around to the other side of the roof and begin the same process.

If you have never run felt paper or installed shingles, there is a nail pattern you must follow. This pattern can be found on any roll of felt paper and shingles.

Shingling requires you to make a starter row to ensure weather proofing. This is also outlined on the shingle pack.

Hire a roofer if you have never done this or consider installing metal roofing. Your other option is to have a book specifically on roofing that goes into more detail.

Making the Home Dried In

The next step is to make sure the home is protected from any inclement weather. Building the exterior walls, getting the trusses in place, and sheeting the roof should take a day.

If you still have time left in the day, you can start cutting out the rough openings for the doors and windows.

After you make these cuts, Tyvek the house. Tyvek is plastic sheeting that you roll on and attach with a staple hammer. This covers all of the joints and covers you made forming the subfloor and exterior walls.

It does not cover the roof.

The Tyvek will cover the windows and all door openings.

You will learn why in a little bit.

We already discussed getting the roof felt paper and shingles in place, so this also helps dry in the home.

Chapter 4: Installing the Doors and Windows

To finish the exterior portion of your tiny house, you will need to first install the doors and windows before you can put the siding on.

You have already cut out the plywood, when you put the Tyvek in place. It is also time to call the sub-contractors to install your plumbing and electrical.

While they work inside, you can be finishing the outside. You have to get the plumbing and electrical work in and approved before you can insulate the interior.

These contractors will not come until the roof is at least sheeted.

Installing the Front Door

You have to have the Tyvek in place before you can permanently install any doors or windows. You will take a knife to the Tyvek going across the door opening. Cut diagonal making an X. You should have four pieces of Tyvek hanging from the sides, top and bottom. You will wrap these pieces inside around the edge of the exterior wall.



Image 8: Tyvek Door Opening (Master Touch Custom Homes)

From the picture you can see how two of the pieces are hanging there, as they wrap around the side and top of the door opening.

You will do this cut for all door and window openings.

Getting the Door in Place

Hold the door up to the opening. Someone must be on the outside to hold it, while someone holds it from the inside.

The person on the outside, will use screws to secure the metal flashing around the door to the exterior wall. The holes are usually pre-drilled. From the inside you are also going to secure the door. However, you may need to use shims to keep the door level.

Use a level to determine if the door needs any shims before securing it the rest of the way.

All Windows and Doors

The above procedures will work for all doors and windows you have in the home. As soon as the doors and windows are in place you can begin siding your home.

Chapter 5: Siding Installation

You have several choices in siding these days. Wood, stone veneer, brick, metal panels, and much more. For the purpose of your tiny home, it may be easier to go with the stone veneer siding or with tongue and groove siding.

The stone comes already attached to a back plate, with pre-drilled holes. You start at the bottom and secure it in place with a screw driver. The next row snaps into place and you screw in the next row.

When you reach the end of a wall, you will need to make a cut so the stone is flush. You will use the cut piece not attached to the wall to start the next row and move up till you hit the top.

The box will also explain how to install the siding, including how to do the first row.

Tongue and Groove Siding

Anytime you are going to put siding on a house, you will need to put metal flashing on the corners. This is true of the stone installation. Tongue and Groove is the most popular siding with Tiny Houses due to the ease of installation.

Flashing runs along the corners perpendicular to the ground.

With tongue and groove siding, the first row will drop down to cover the subfloor. You will use a nail gun to secure it in place. Make sure the tongue is oriented up. You can tell the tongue from the grove because it is thinner and by definition a grove is a track or rut. Run along the entire side, and make a cut for the last piece in the row if necessary.

The next row will begin with the short piece from the cut you made to finish the first row. You want to stagger the boards for a better, finished look. If you run the same seams, where each board finishes at the same spot, it looks less attractive. It also wastes wood due to the cuts you have to make. The grove will fit over the tongue of the first piece. The two pieces will match up at the seam, with no space in between.

You just keep making cuts all the way up. The downside with wood is that you do have to paint it or stain it.

Choose your siding based on time and budget. You also have sheets of siding that are like

plywood, but made of a different wood mixture. These can go on quickly and cover 8 feet by 4 feet of wall.

No matter what siding you use, you will need to cut around the windows to make it fit. For most novices, it is easier to cut a tongue and groove board, than to try to measure out the window using the paneling.

With windows and doors, you might have to cut a notch to make it fit underneath the window. For the sides, you just need to cut the board to fit from the last piece of tongue and groove to the window's edge.



Image 9: Tongue and Groove Siding (NPS Public Domain License)

From this NPS image you can see how the tongue and groove siding comes together. The side view shows the tongue on the top, while the groove fits over the tongue. You can also see the seam it makes when it is installed.

Types of Siding:

- Vinyl
- Cedar
- Fiber Cement
- Engineered Wood
- PPG Prefinished Siding

- Panel Siding
- Mortar-less Manufactured Stone
- Log Siding
- Real Stone
- Manufactured Stone
- Steel Siding
- Stone Veneer Siding



Image 10: Stone Veneer Siding (Creative Commons License, Leonard G.)

As you can see with the stone veneer picture, it looks like masonry, but it is actually one panel of stone that is stacked on top of another. You can use this for more than an exterior siding. Many people also use this for fireplaces, instead of brick or to create an accent wall in their bedroom.

Finishing the Exterior

The exterior is not done when you put the siding in place. You still have a little work to do. Once the siding is in place, you will need to caulk around each door and window. This creates a weather seal.

Using a caulking gun, run a bead of caulk and smooth it out with your finger.

Fascia and Soffit

The fascia and soffit or eaves of your home also need to be finished. You can use wood to

finish this area off. You would run the boards from the siding to the edge of the eave.

On the front of the eave you will put a long board of 1x6, which will hang down about 2 inches.

The 1x6 board can be used to install gutters ensuring that the rain from the roof runs into the gutter and along the ground, rather than settling in front of the doors and other areas of your home.



Image 11: Eaves

This image shows you the eaves of a completed home. The tongue and groove is oriented perpendicular to the house. The lower edge of the image is the house, while the upper



edge is where the 1x6 board runs.

Image 12: Eaves from a different perspective

This is a different view to show you the edge of the roof eaves.

Window and Door Trim

After the siding is in place and you have caulked around the edges of the windows and doors it is time for the trim. The above image 12, also shows the trim going around the windows. You want to cut a 45-degree angle on both edges of the trim so you make a perfect square.

Some individuals forget to cut the 45-degree angle, so one edge is always exposed. It looks awkward. For a better finish, cut the pieces by measuring the window sides and ensuring the short side of the 45-degree angle matches the window edge.

With the trim on you are now done with the exterior.

Chapter 6: Interior Work

While you worked on the exterior of your home, the plumber and electrician should have completed their work. You should also have the inspection completed by now so that you can proceed to finish the interior of your home. To complete the interior, you will need to:

- Insulate the walls
- Cover the insulation
- Install any cabinets
- Install the shower/tub, vanity, and toilet
- Install Appliances
- Finish the flooring

Insulating Walls

Even in a tiny space, the wrong insulation can make it cold and ensure you are wasting more electricity trying to keep it warm than you should.

Fiberglass insulation used to be the only option. Not today. Today we have plenty of choices including the spray foam insulation that expands as it dries. This foam may cost more; however, there are also lumber companies that rent insulation machines. This means you can save money spraying it yourself.

You will need to spray the foam from the bottom of the wall to the top. The insulation fits between each stud and should not expand beyond the stud, otherwise your wall will not be flush when you install the drywall or siding.

You also have to go in between the window and studs, any filler blocks, and around all doors.



Image 13: Insulation

While the image does not show spray on insulation, it gives you an example of how the insulation should cover the wall. You can make out where each stud is based on the small groove showing every 16 inches.

Finishing the Walls

Unless you have installed drywall before and know what you are doing, it is suggested that you also use tongue and groove siding for the interior walls.

Drywall, even in a tiny house can be a lot of work. You have to know how to mud the grooves and over the screws. If you do not have a smooth finish on the drywall, then when you paint every imperfection of installation will be seen.

With wood siding or wood paneling you do not have to worry about imperfections. If you do not like that much wood, you always have the option of painting it, rather than staining the siding.

Like the outside you are going to run a floor piece and then continue up, making sure you make cuts for the windows and around the electrical boxes.

For the interior walls, you do not have sheathing to nail the boards too. This means you need to pay attention to where your board ends. The board needs to end half way on the stud, so that the next board on that row will cover the other half of the stud giving you a place to nail both boards. The joints need to be nailed down to prevent warping.



Image 14: Interior Wall Finish

In the above image you can see where the boards come together in a joint. You can also see the staggering of the boards. You want your wall to follow a similar pattern.

To make the cut for any electrical boxes, use a jigsaw. The small saw helps you make the cut in the thin wood, without fear of going too far and making too large a cut around the box. Always measure the size of the box, mark the measurements on the board, and then cut.

Completing the Kitchen

The plumbing and electrical is done in the kitchen based on the plans you had drawn up for the tiny home. This means the layout of the kitchen is already known and you just need to install the pieces for the kitchen. In tiny homes, going with a full sized stove may not be an option in order to save space. There are a lot of interesting options out there such as fridge drawers rather than small half fridges, as well as single draw dishwashers. You have the option of choosing a two burner stove or going with a hot plate. The amount of time you spend cooking will determine how many cabinets you need for storage, as well as the overall kitchen size.

The size of your bathroom also determines where the kitchen ends up.

Consider these plans:



Figure 11: Home Plan with small bathroom

One has more of a kitchenette space, than the other. The rectangular tiny home could offer a kitchen where it is placed, or you could decide to use that as bedroom space, running the kitchen along the same wall as the bathroom. You have a lot you can do when it comes to kitchens. It is a matter of how much functionality and counter space you require.

Installing cabinets is as simple as drawing the layout on the subfloor and walls to ensure you hit the studs and have a square layout.

Use cabinet screws to secure the cabinets in place. If you are unsure about the number of screws, check the image on the box. Each cabinet type will have a different load requirement and thus need a certain amount of screws.

You will also screw each cabinet to each other.

Always use a level.

When you install the countertop you want a level cabinet, plus one that is square.

If the cabinets do not square up with the wall, then any joint you may have in the counter,

when turning a corner, will not form correctly. You may also have a large wide space between the wall and backsplash.

A wide crack is difficult to cover with caulking.

Install the sink and all appliances.

Around the sink caulk the edge to ensure a proper seal.

Bathroom Installation

Again you will need to follow box instructions for installation.

However, you will always use caulking and screws to ensure all pieces of the bathroom are in place. A shower insert is best, where you run it to the ceiling. This negates the need for any tile or wall finishes. The rest of the bathroom can be the tongue and groove for the walls.

Finishing the Fixtures

Unless you have electrical experience, you will want your electrician to come back to install the lights.

You can cover all wall plugs with the outlet plates. It just takes two screws, one on the top and the other on the bottom.

Flooring

Hardwood flooring is probably the simplest to install, as well as keep up.

There are several types of hardwood flooring from laminate wood flooring to engineered hardwood. Your budget determines the flooring you will purchase.

For hardwood flooring the installation process is on the box.

You will need to figure out the square footage you have left with all cabinets installed and buy the amount of flooring you need.

You also need to purchase flooring glue, which will go between the subfloor and the hardwood. With laminate flooring all you need is the glue.

For hardwood, you will need to tack it in place with finishing nails to prevent it from

coming up.

Trim Work

Now that all other work has been finished, it is time to trim the doors, windows, and install baseboards. All though, you can reasonably install the window and door trim once you have the interior walls finished. Like the outside window and door trim you need to cut 45-degree angles to ensure a complete edge instead of a square unfinished look.

Trim for baseboards, also requires a proper 45-degree angle. The angle is reversed, where the long edge fits close to the wall and the short edge meets on the front.

Always check the angle to make sure there are no large cracks. If you have large cracks, you will need to caulk more and it will not look as nice.

Finish nails will tack the baseboard and other trim in place.

You now have a completed tiny house that is livable. There are of course many options when it comes to tiny homes.

You have to be inventive when it comes to saving space.

Suggested Options

Making your tiny home more livable is about using space wisely. In the 200 sq. ft. home we have discussed in these chapters, you know space will be limited. You may decide building a loft is a better option than having a first floor bed area.

Lofts can be great for storage. You can always add a storage loft after the build if you desire, all though the ceiling will become shorter, giving a more cramped feeling.

Furniture can also be made to fold up and out of the way. For example, you could build a table that folds out from a wall or from a cabinet.

If you have a loft with stairs, you can use the stairs as cubby holes or even build a desk into the stairs.

TVs can rise from a cabinet that also works as a table.

Your couch can be your bed that folds up every night.

You can also install a murphy bed that comes out of the wall each night.

The possibilities in a tiny home are endless, if you have enough imagination.

Now that you have some ideas, consider drawing a few plans on a napkin, paper, or with a computer program. See what fits best for you and have an architect draw up some plans to ensure all is to code.

Conclusion

Thank you for purchasing this book!

I hope this book was able to help you build your own tiny house, even with a little help from outside sub-contractors. While this book does outline how a house should be constructed there are a lot of little things that go into building a home. If you have never done any woodworking projects or worked with construction tools, make certain you have someone who has.

Even though most states allow you to build your own home, there are still codes that must be followed. This is why a friend who works in construction can be handy if you have never done any construction before.

If you have, then you now have a guide that explains the steps to building a floor, framing, drying in the home, as well as finishing the interior.

Finally, if you enjoyed this book, please take the time to share your thoughts and post a review. It would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you and good luck!

TINY HOUSES

The Best Proven Tips, Tricks & Ideas To Live In Less Than 400 Square Feet And Feel Large

Copyright © 2015, Akys Taylor Publishing

By Akys Taylor

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for the use of brief quotations in a book review or scholarly journal.

DISCLAIMER

Although the author and publisher have made every effort to ensure that the information in this book was correct at press time, the author and publisher do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause.

Table Of Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Chapter 1 The Tiny House Revolution](#)

[Chapter 2 Consumerism In A Nutshell](#)

[Chapter 3The Concept Of Minimalism](#)

[Chapter 4 What Is A Tiny House](#)

[Chapter 5 The Different Kinds Of Tiny Homes](#)

[Chapter 6 The Problem Of Small Houses](#)

[Chapter 7 Why Live Tiny](#)

[Chapter 8 Factors To Consider Before Adopting Tiny House Living](#)

[Chapter 9 Building A Tiny House](#)

[Chapter 10 How To Maximize Limited Floor Area: Ideas To Make Your Small House Look Big](#)

[Conclusion](#)



(source: http://clv.h-cdn.co/assets/cm/15/10/640x480/gallery_54f0d9d889efa_-_01-millertinyhouse-048-edit1-lgn.jpg)

Introduction

People build different types of houses. Common are traditional houses; the kinds that can be seen in films. These are a homeowner's dream: multiple bedrooms and baths, a sizable kitchen and living area, some equipped with a den or library, others offering extra storage from basements and attics, a freshly mowed front lawn, and a backyard for the children to play in. For the longest time, people would save for houses like these until the vertical revolution arrived. With less available land and the continuous need for housing, apartments and condominium complexes started taking center stage.

A common attribute among these housing options is expense, expense that can no longer be shouldered by most people today; people who are burdened by a reduction in purchasing power, rise in taxes, and continuously growing personal debt. Maintenance is another issue that has come to light. With the changing demands of modern day life comes the growing popularity of on-the-go lifestyles. As people spend more time working, less time can be allotted for home management lest family time be spent doing chores. It is in this case that working with minute spaces became the ideal setup.

This is where the concept of the tiny house enters the picture. It provides homeowners with the ability to live with the basics. Instead of spending time and effort on material possessions not to mention unnecessary excess they are able to capitalize on the human experience focusing on their relationships and passions and having the luxury of time and freedom.

People require alternatives to effective and efficient home ownership and lifestyles and this movement might have provided them with a viable and sustainable solution. But what is tiny house living all about? Is it simply a decision to live with a smaller amount of floor space? Is it about choosing to survive in a camper? Or is there a deeper meaning and purpose behind it?

There are plenty of things that need to be known about this minimalist-inspired way of life and here are some of the basics that people need to understand about living in these miniscule properties.

The Tiny House Revolution



(source: <http://cdn.cstatic.net/images/gridfs/55d381bcf92ea11bfa01330e/toybox-tiny-home-9.jpeg>)

Westerners are becoming attune to living small where a tiny house provides for everything that they need. This does not simply involve building smaller residential units as it also demands a shift in lifestyle. It is a modern way of living that stemmed from what was considered a fad. It is surprising yet admirable that it only took a short amount of time for the concept to gain traction. It completely goes against the more-is-always-better concept as it involves leading a simple life; a meaningful way of living leaving a minimal carbon footprint.

Efficient home ownership by means of downsizing living spaces is what the tiny house revolution is all about. This is a rapidly growing social movement that aims to influence homeowners to live large by living tiny. It concentrates on teaching people how to make the most out of a small amount of space through smart decision-making, minimalist and immaterialist living, and functional application.

Unconventional but creative and adaptable, tiny house living is not for everyone. It calls for a significant amount of sacrifice and commitment justifiable by the achievement of a homeowner's goals. Those who are interested in pursuing tiny house living must first assess whether they can comply with its limited but challenging demands. Will the limited space work for a full-sized family? Will the home provide every facility needed by the homeowners? Will there be any hurdles as to the expense of construction? These and more are some basic questions that should be answered early on.

It is a wise idea to do some research on what current tiny home owners have experienced in their journey as it will complement this initial assessment on suitability. Find out why the shift works, understand the potential challenges it may come with, and be guided by

the common issues these homeowners have faced and how they dealt with them. The more information there is, the more confident a potential homeowner's decision will be.

Consumerism In A Nutshell



(source: http://www.justrightsselfstorage.ca/uploads/images/blog-cluttered_room-feb-2015.jpg)

Consumerism is the act that encourages people to acquire as many goods and services that they can in the span of a lifetime.

Why Escape It?

Why are people starting to revolt against the cultural ideology that is consumerism? For starters, it stands to fight debt. The amount of personal debt a person incurs on average is rapidly increasing causing more stress to manifest. People are now working to pay off debt and that is no way to live a life.

More purchases do not only lead to the incurrence of more debt. It also fosters a life lived taking care of material possessions. Caring for these things, people's growing dependence on possessions, and the fear of losing them drain valuable time and energy. The sad thing about it is that some people ignore the fact that most of these things are items which they don't really need.

With more possessions also come the desire for an upscale lifestyle often leading people to become envious of those who seem to have it all. With the mind focused on what isn't owned come discontentment and a person becomes unappreciative of the things in his or her life.

Acting against consumerism will also encourage people to dispel the need to keep up with trends learning to live not to have the latest thing on the market but to do so to enjoy various experiences along the way. A reduced need for material possessions will also reduce the need to impress and increase the desire to be generous. Most importantly, escaping it helps people realize that what they have been spending on are empty claims as real happiness can never be bought.

The Concept Of Minimalism



(source: <http://mountainx.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Walk-thru-front-door-see-all.jpg>)

Focus on what you need by letting go of the things that you do not need. Minimalism is a pretty simple concept that is misunderstood by many. It is often dismissed as a restrictive manner of living; a fad nonetheless. But it is so much more than just living with less. It is about achieving a happy life through contentment. There are plenty of fears that can be abolished by embracing a minimalist lifestyle. Fear can derail people without them noticing it. It can easily prevent them from achieving their goals. Financial freedom, that from guilt and anxiety, that from consumerism, even the fear of the unknown.

Although there is nothing inherently wrong with having material possessions, the roles these hold in people's lives can become quite problematic. When more attention is placed on these possessions, people lose track of what is really important in life: health, relationships, goals, aspirations, passions. Things can easily go out of control where personal growth is sacrificed for ownership.

Shifting to this mindset comes with a series of challenging hurdles but the rewards are well worth it. It won't be easy at the start but rest assured that things will get better as time progresses.

Understanding the Concept

Minimalism is not like religion. There is no dogma applied to it. It is a shift in lifestyle brought about a change in one's mindset. As people learn how to effectively downsize, they are able to shift their dependency on material possessions to the valuation of human experiences, happiness, passion, and fulfillment.

The Idea of Downsizing

The idea of downsizing does not simply revolve on getting rid of things in sight. The first point of action is figuring out what is needed and what can be let go. There is the misconception that having plenty of things is bad. This is not the case. What is bad is having so many things that they end up interfering with the person's ability to live a happy and fulfilling life.

Downsizing is not about giving up things because you have the ability to do so. Losing material possessions, especially those which hold value, can be detrimental to one's emotional health. A person will end up spending more to buy new things to fill the void left by possessions that have been disposed of. It starts a never ending cycle and increases one's dependency on things to feel happy.

What Can Be Learned from Minimalism?

Plenty of individuals think that they need more than what is actually necessary. Material possessions have long been used to fill the void in people's lives stemming from various sources like struggles at work, diminished self-worth, failed relationships, and even envy.

There are a number of different reasons as to why people choose to adopt a minimalist view on life. There are also plenty of things that can be learned from this way of living.

Living as a minimalist means that a person accepts the less is more concept where living with fewer material possessions allow for a better existence. Just think about it. Having fewer stuff means having to manage less items allowing for a more organized home. Not having to buy a lot of things influences savings. Not having to depend on materialism encourages the shift of focus to more meaningful life experiences and interactions. Minimalism may come with a reduction of possessions but what people gain in return is worth more than its weight in gold.

Living with less allows people to create room, to accommodate, things that are important. It no longer ties people down but sets them free. The fear of losing worldly possessions easily gets thrown out the window. What follows is the freedom from envy, obsession, greed, and debt thereby reducing the need to work excessively to survive. Without the need to work excessively comes time freedom where people have more opportunities to pursue the things they are passionate about; traveling, volunteering, and what not.

The lifestyle also encourages a shift in focus from things to a person's health. With more available time to spend, a person can engage in various hobbies that make him or her happy. A person will have the ability to allot time for exercise and healthy eating. Gone are the excuses that there is no time to run, hit the gym, or prepare a meal. A person will now have enough time to do the things that there was no time for in the past.

The Benefits of Minimalism

Aside from freedom, the most beneficial effects that can take effect on a person embracing the minimalist lifestyle is a reduction in stress not to mention achieving peace of mind by reducing the things that have to constantly be thought of or worried about. By clearing the mind of worry, a person becomes more mindful of everything else. Mindfulness leads to better decisions and influences confidence.

What is a Tiny House?



(source: http://hgtvhome.sndimg.com/content/dam/images/hgrm/fullset/2013/2/27/0/CI-PAD-TinyHouses-home-interior_s3x4.jpg.rend.hgtvcom.1280.1707.jpeg)

A tiny house is exactly what its name pertains to. It is, indeed, a tiny house. It is often compared to a mobile home because there are designs which can be attached to a tow vehicle. In this case, to meet road limits and regulatory requirements, the maximum dimensions are 13.5-feet tall by 8.5-feet wide and 40-feet long. Including the vehicle, it should not exceed 65 feet in length.

There are tiny homes which have provisions to be connected to a vehicle but can also be

anchored to the ground. Here is where homeowners can be more flexible with the dimensions. But considering the concept of tiny home living, most individuals choose to keep it within the 220 square foot standard (tiny homes range in size anywhere from 100 to 400 square feet). In comparison, standard homes measure in at an average of 2400 square feet!

The basic structure usually consists of existing cargo trailers but some homeowners build their houses from scratch using wood and plaster. It is important to keep the building light yet durable. After the external structure has been built, the home can be insulated using expanding foam. When the insulation sets, plywood boards can then be used to aesthetically seal the inside and outside of the house.

Although small in stature, a tiny home is just like any other traditional home in terms of the function it serves and the amenities it offers. It is different in such a way that homeowners can technically live off the grid.

Most of these houses have no access to general utilities mainly because of their mobile nature. Homeowners rely on portable generators and water reservoirs when they are on the road. Anchored down, these homes can be connected to an existing grid if necessary.

The Different Kinds of Tiny Homes



(source: <http://cdn.hiconsumption.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Garage-Converted-to-250-Square-Foot-Tiny-House.jpg>)

Tiny homes come in various shapes and sizes. These may also be fabricated using a number of different materials like cargo trailers, wood, or even cement. With a small house, homeowners may choose to spend on a pre-fab unit or make one themselves. The latter generally costs about \$25,000, materials and appliances included, and finds no need for external laborers.

A pre-fab unit is created by a property construction company. Because the materials have been pre-fabricated, the construction crew simply has to nail and screw all elements in place. Snap-on and Lego are common terminologies used to describe the resulting home. This option costs a little bit more as external labor is used but homeowners save on time and effort.

These homes may also differ in terms of the foundation. Initially, tiny homes were mobile; a more modern take on the classic RV or trailer. Although mobile homes of this minute dimension still exist, more homeowners are building their tiny houses on sold land. This means that the homes are anchored down and immobile. In some cases, homeowners make the most of the two designs building homes that can be towed by a vehicle and then anchored down as they settle.

There are also tiny homes which are built from scratch while others rise from existing structures. There are people who are extremely creative making tiny houses from old vans or buses. This then eliminates the need for a separate towing vehicle. There are some who

renovate existing garages or storage areas and convert these into tiny homes which can be rented out for additional income. With these kinds of houses, the possibilities are somewhat endless really.

A tiny home can employ various designs as well with the one-floor setup being the most common. Some people have also applied the loft design to their small homes where the loft usually serves to house the bed turning it into a makeshift separate bedroom. One may also find houses with expanding decks for lounging. These are usually designed to conveniently fold up against one wall of the house after usage.

Tiny home dwellers can also choose to position their homes in a separate, more private, area or become part of what is now commonly known as an eco-village. An eco-village is a community of self-sufficient tiny home owners. It offers a long-term stay arrangement for those engaged in this lifestyle. Short-term dwellings are also available in the form of city parking provisions and RV parks and resorts.

The Problem of Small Houses



(source: <http://tiny-themovie.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Screen-Shot-2014-02-12-at-5.25.45-PM.png>)

Probably the main issue that comes with small houses is the limited amount of floor space that homeowners can work with. Especially for people who have grown accustomed to having a lot of things, adjusting to basic living might be a challenge indeed.

Another issue that arises is that of claustrophobia. There are some individuals who cannot stay in confined spaces for long periods of time as it leads to severe anxiety. If left unaddressed, it can be detrimental to one's health.

Getting insurance for homes constructed by licensed RV manufacturers and developers is easy. Getting home insurance for DIY tiny houses can pose some bit of a challenge. This may be another obstacle that homeowners will have to face if they choose to downsize.

These are some of the reasons why people should first assess whether or not they can handle the demands of tiny house living before joining the bandwagon.

Why Live Tiny?



(source: <http://media.galaxant.com/000/015/201/tiny-house16.jpg>)

Just like there are different types of tiny houses, there are also different reasons as to why people consider living in smaller homes; to each his own. Here are some of the reasons why people choose to live tiny:

1. To Reduce One's Carbon Footprint

There are those who purposely live tiny to reduce their carbon footprint. Living in and maintaining larger homes usually involves heightened fuel, water, and electricity consumption but these are often left unnoticed. Living small comes with a conscientious effort to conserve available resources and thereby live better and greener. Without regular access to grid power and commercial utilities, tiny home owners are able to keep track of their utility usage ensuring that there is no excess as to what is consumed.

Apart from the conservation of water, fuel, and electricity, these homeowners are also able to reduce their carbon footprint by reducing the need for manufactured construction materials. Having fewer requirements allows for the avoidance of additional material production and transportation which then leads to less potential wastage (usually from construction excess and demolition). This doesn't only apply to the initial construction but to repair work as well.

2. To Achieve Financial Freedom

There are those who commit to the lifestyle shift because they want financial freedom. Unless fully owned, mortgages and rent payments worry home owners month after month.

With tiny houses costing no more than \$30,000 on average, people have the advantage of fully owning their homes thereby removing this monthly stressor. With the smaller space comes lower utility consumption which translates to a significant reduction in expenses.

More savings can be expected from the minimalist nature of this lifestyle. Because the house is small, its homeowners will be diligent when it comes to shopping. More often than not, they will abstain from making unnecessary or impulsive purchases which result to more money being retained in the bank. Aside from saving money, there are people who simply want to avoid incurring future debt.

3. To Be Secure

Security is another popular reason justifying the tiny house movement. Foreclosure will never be an issue because it has been personally built and fully paid for. It is another less thing to think about. This then prevents job vulnerability. There are people who are lucky enough to have the kind of work that they enjoy but others are not so fortunate. These are the ones who tirelessly stick to their nine to fives because they need a regular paycheck.

As tiny house living reduces one's monthly expenses post construction, homeowners now have the freedom to pursue other occupations without anxiety or fear. A number of homeowners who shifted to living in tiny homes were able to give up their regular jobs for part-time work. Others have successfully established businesses of their own. This is primarily because of the financial flexibility that comes with this lifestyle.

4. To Have the Freedom of and from Choice

With tiny house living comes flexibility and this allows homeowners to love out their passions without any hesitation. People can choose to leave their unsatisfying jobs in pursuit of better opportunities. Homeowners can choose to travel for extended periods of time without worrying about their mortgage or rent. People can choose to live simply, to live green. They can choose to pay more attention to experiences rather than material possessions. And the list goes on.

The freedom from choice is another popular reason here. A limited amount of space allows for a limited number of possessions. These days, commercial retail is booming with companies churning more and more products for people to buy. Having plenty of choices opens countless opportunities for impulsive buying and unnecessary purchasing. This is a problem tiny house owners have no issues with. As they have access to a smaller amount of space, they are more mindful of the things they bring home.

5. To Have a Less Complicated Life

A multitude of benefits come with tiny house living and one of the most popular ones is having the ability to enjoy a less complicated life. Oftentimes, people get caught up in a lot of things that all they want to do is take a breather. With the simplicity, the amount of

flexibility, and the reduction in financial responsibility that comes with keeping a small abode comes peace of mind, something that is highly difficult to come by.

Factors To Consider Before Adopting Tiny House Living



(source: <http://cdn.hiconsumption.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Eagle-Point-Tiny-House.jpg>)

Both personal and financial commitment are necessary for a person to succeed at tiny house living. Several factors have to be taken into account before any decisions or investments are made with regard to building a tiny home.

1. Funds

Property acquisition always comes with an upfront cost. The question is whether or not homeowners have the financial capacity to shoulder initial and succeeding payments on a home. With a small house, the costs come in the form of construction. This is the only major cost of living small. Although there are secondary and tertiary costs to the project like repairs, fuel, and what not, these are often minimal.

2. Construction

Will professionals be hired to do the job or is a homeowner equipped with the skills necessary to build a tiny house? Professionals are able to construct small houses with ease cutting back on the overall transition period. On the other hand, homeowners who have time to spare can save money on labor fees if they choose to turn this into a DIY project. On the case of building permits, provided that it is small enough, it won't require one as it can stand as auxiliary property.

3. Time

A small house can take anywhere from several weeks to several months to build. It is important for homeowners to assess how much time they have to spare, if they have any, before they have to move into their new abode. The time calculation includes everything from the initial design to the actual build plus time for transition and adjustment to the new lifestyle.

4. Parking

One of the most common issues that come with tiny house living is figuring out where to put the home. People with their own land can safely use it for their small houses. Transients can vie for RV parks while eco-villages are available to those who are in need of a more permanent settlement. In any case, this should be decided upon before a house is built. It is also necessary for homeowners to take a look at all applicable zoning laws.

5. Foundation

Will the house be mobile or immobile? Even a tiny house is expected to adhere to standard building regulations.

6. Lifestyle

A tiny house comes with a limited space. Homeowners should assess whether or not the limitations suit their lifestyles. Are there any pets? How many people are there in the family? Can the set up provide its homeowners the privacy that they need? Is a designated outdoor space possible? Is it conducive for entertaining friends and family? These are some examples of the questions that should be asked prior to any investment.

Aside from the ability to live with less space, homeowners should also determine whether or not they can live with less. What was once a full-sized closet filled with clothes may now become two pairs of shoes and a handful of shirts and pants. A full kitchen may be reduced to a pot and pan plus a handful of dishes and utensils. The capacity to handle the adjustment is important for one to succeed in living small.

7. Utilities and Shared Provisions

Planning for utilities is a requirement of tiny house living especially because most of the lifestyle involves off-the-grid survival. Access to electricity, sewage disposal, and running water have to be ensured. RV parks and eco-villages usually have provisions for these but homeowners who will be residing in isolated areas might have to invest in generators or water reservoirs.

In some cases, where people make the most of their small houses, separate bathrooms may not be available. Here is where homeowners make use of shared provisions. It is important

for people to decide if they will be comfortable sharing a bathroom. If not, then it would be best for them to include it in the build.

8. Goals

People have different goals behind their desire to live small but some of these goals have alternatives other than tiny house living and all of these should be considered before a final decision is made. For example, those who want to save money can engage in other activities without having to leave their current homes. They can tighten their belts a bit or stay at home instead of heading out to eat.

Building A Tiny House



(source: <http://tinyhousepins.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/raising-walls-for-tiny-house-600x450.jpg>)

After considering all aspects of living small, it may be time to invest in a house.

Professional Versus Personal Effort

Professionals can be contracted to build this type of house but homeowners, provided that they have basic construction skills, can work on it themselves. The timeline for the latter is about 3 to 5 months on average but this depends on the size. Professionals can complete this type of project in about a month or less.

Working on the Layout: Floor Plans

In constructing a tiny house, a significant amount of time should be spent planning the layout. This is where skills in mathematics is necessary. A tiny house does come with a smaller amount of space but this does not make planning the floor any easier. In fact, it makes the process even more challenging. With a limited amount of square footage comes minimal room for errors and miscalculations. It wouldn't be a wise decision to rush things.

To make things simple, think of the house as a chart. Assess and identify what specific functions the home must satisfy. Is there a need for a designated living room? How much cooking will be done in the space? Is an office necessary? What about the bedroom and storage provisions? There are plenty of questions that need to be answered here but better lay them all out than have to alter plans time and time again. The primary objective is to

allot the most space for the most important function.

What Features Should a Tiny House Have?

Apart from the initial structure, other essentials that a tiny house needs include good ventilation, access to electricity and running water, energy efficiency, functional living areas, windows, and a comfortable sleeping area.

The process that applies to constructing a small house is no different than that for its traditional counterpart. To make it mobile, the homeowner simply has to add wheels and a connection for the house and towing vehicle. In this case, if there would be any complications to the build, it will resemble those that affect standard construction starting with the design moving towards fittings.

It is possible, for example, for custom furnishings not to fit correctly in a designated space due to poor planning. DIY homeowners might encounter material issues like incomplete supplies, damages, wastage, or supply unavailability. The weather not to mention natural occurrences may also impede construction without warning.

Personalization

Building a small house doesn't mean that it should be dull or boring. Personalization is a very important aspect of living in a tiny house. As with conventional properties, the abode should be a reflection of its owner hence the accommodation of creativity.

Although the structure outlay commonly used in fabricating these homes follow standard patterns, homeowners have full control over the materials that they will be using both inside and outside of the home. It is also up to them as to how the internal layout will be divided. Homeowners can easily choose the external design, hues, not to mention additional features that may be incorporated into the build.

The Advantages and Disadvantages of Building a Tiny House

Building a tiny home does come with its fair share of advantages and disadvantages. It is an advantage to be working with a low volume of building supplies. This provides homeowners with the option to vie for high quality materials since they will only be needing a small amount of it. The limited construction space is more of an advantage than a negative component. This allows builders to be flexible and creative. Not needing to fill up a huge area also eliminates design pressures.

Most of the challenges originate from the limited floor area per se. Homeowners do not have the luxury of fitting multiple items in the space. It is important for them to be particular about what they want and compare this with what they need. Making a flow plan or functional outlay for the home is another crucial task. Even if the space is small, it should not be uncomfortably tight to live in. For those who will be hiring professional builders to work on the property, it will be a challenge to fit a number of working men in

such a snug space.

Although sizing depends on the owner, standard measurements that qualify a house as tiny measure in at about 100 to 400 square feet. It is best to work with a manageable size where everything a homeowner needs can truly be placed under one roof. Since a home is a long-term investment, it is important for homeowners to assess their lifestyle prior to the build and it starts with a clear identification of how much time one will be spending at home.

What follows is how many people will live in the house, will there be animals, will people be invited over, will there be space for an outdoor extension; questions like these matter. Building too large of a home disqualifies it as living tiny but building too small will easily make the abode unlivable.

Managing a Small Abode

Maintaining a smaller house is quite similar to managing a conventional one. It will still require regular cleaning and repairs but at a smaller scale making things more manageable for homeowners. Depending on the materials used in construction, say wood for example, it might need occasional touch-ups like staining or weather-proofing. Other than that, there is really not that much square footage to worry about.

Workshops and Introduction Seminars

There are developers and communities that hold seminars or workshops for people interested in tiny homes. It offers all of the relevant information one needs to know to successfully transition into the lifestyle. Conduct a search online to see what options are available in particular locations.

How to Maximize Limited Floor Area: Ideas To Make Your Small House Look Big



(source: <http://cdn.history.com/sites/6/2014/07/tiny-house-bedroom-loft-P.jpeg>)

One of the main objectives of tiny house living is making the most use out of every available square footage. It is easy to be overwhelmed by the huge demand but limited supply of space but given these few guidelines, it will be easy to transition from a standard home to a miniscule one.

1. Win the War Against Clutter

Clutter has its way of impeding a house to feel like a home. Regardless of how large the structure is, if things are in excess then these will eat up every available square footage. To live in a small house, a person has to learn to live with the basics. A minimalist lifestyle is highly suggested here.

The thing about clutter or an excess in material possessions is that they steer people away from the human experience. As time passes, people become attached to things, not people; and over time it becomes extremely difficult to let go of these objects. If the attachment worsens to some degree, it can lead to hoarding, which is recognized as a psychological condition; a mental disability.

The home is a refuge and this is why it should provide homeowners with a sense of calm every time they walk through the door. This is why de-cluttering matters. It involves letting go of unnecessary things, not to make room for new ones, but to help a person regain a sense of closeness to the human experience.

Most people fall victim to an overwhelming sense of responsibility once faced with mountains of items to organize. But in reality, the process of removing clutter is quite

simple. All it takes are three bins to start: one to keep, one to donate, and the other to dispose.

Do not work on everything at one time. Work on piles per function. For example, start with kitchen items: utensils, dishware, and the like. When everything has been sorted, move on to closet items, and so on and so forth. Do know that everything does not have to be finished in a day. This can be tasking indeed and rushing to finish things will only lead to a bout with anxiety.

A rule of thumb here is that once an item is in the box, it can no longer be moved to a different category. Our minds are wired to work on impulse and more often than not, our first decisions reflect our true points of view on various matters. Back to the bins. Once they have been filled, do not make the mistake of storing them in-house. Have the donations picked up and dispose of what are meant to be thrown away. This will reduce any chance of tinkering. Every item that is meant to be kept should then be put in its proper place may it be inside a closet, in a cupboard, or by the bath.

De-cluttering is not only about reducing the amount of things a person is in possession of. No matter how big or small a property is, everything should be kept tidy and organized to eliminate a cramped feeling. Too much stuff is never good for the sight, it is also a disadvantage to the pocket. Homeowners can make their tiny houses feel more orderly and open if everything has its place. This is where the adage “out of sight, out of mind” truly applies.

Clutter can also come in the form of decorative elements used in the design of one’s house. Family pictures or paintings on the wall can serve as a focal point but having plenty of them all hung up can make an area feel busy. To avoid crowding, it would be best to have a larger image than several smaller ones.

Accessories are major elements in interior design but they should be kept to a minimum when living tiny. Instead of spending on complementary decorative pieces, use the existing furniture to stand as focal points per space: the bed for the bedroom, the couch for the living area, the dining table for the kitchen and so on and so forth. Also pay attention to what is being stepped on. The floors should be as clear as possible for a home to appear more spacious than it is. Large area rugs are big no-no’s in this case.

2. Work with Functional Furniture

Furniture items are integral in every home. As much as it will be truly uncomfortable living without them, they can easily personalize any given space. Even the tiniest of houses need enough provisions for furniture. The only difference is that homeowners

should invest in functional pieces instead of traditional ones. There are suppliers that make these types of furniture commercially available but they can also be made from scratch if necessary. For a tiny house, it is best to work with a fabricator as the limited confines call for specific dimensions and designs.

Functional furniture consist of pieces that save space or provide functions other than their intended purpose. It can come in the form of bed or seating with storage provisions underneath. Some small houses have ladders that double as vertical storage boxes. Expandable or pull-out furniture also work well in tiny spaces. End tables that serve as additional seating are also to be considered. There are plenty of these furnishing ideas available online and it would be best to do as much research as possible before making any purchases of the sort.

3. Learn About Proper Placement

Getting the right kind of multi-purpose furniture is very important in tiny house living but proper placement is essential. Considering the limited floor area, Major pieces should always be placed against walls to create a streamlined effect. This will give the homeowners more room to move about.

Furnishings that serve complementary or shared purposes should also be positioned side by side. Further improving the flow of the home. It will also require less space for moving if everything that the homeowner needs, say to prepare a meal, is within reach.

4. Unique Interior Designing Ideas for Your Small Home: Design Illusions that Magnify a Space

With a tiny house in tow, there really isn't a whole lot of space to work with. This is why it is advisable for homeowners to choose certain color palettes and apply several eye-fooling illusions to make a space appear larger than it actually is.

The Use of Color

Instantly make a room feel airier by using light color palettes. Homeowners do not have to stick with traditional white or other dull colors. Pastels work perfectly for small homes. To break up the monotony in hues, clever contrasts can be applied. These can come in forms such as dark pillows by the bed or dark wood for the retractable dining table. The use of dark contrasts should be kept to a minimum though as these are known to absorb light thereby contracting space.

Keep in mind that colors also have the ability of influencing people's moods so choose wisely. Creams, light greens, and light blues work to form a relaxing atmosphere in the primary living area. They also have the power of making small spaces appear larger. Light grays work well with natural light making the bed space feel warm and cozy. As soft tones are used for the walls, complement these with trims or moldings of lighter shades.

Strong and bold colors like black and red should be reserved for the outside portion of the house. If there is an outdoor patio, keep things simple and just treat the wood using a light to medium toned stain.

Windows and Lighting

Lighting easily opens up a space. In a tiny home, the more natural light is let in, the airier the space will appear to be. This is where windows and skylights enter the picture. Aside from providing savings through the use of natural light, these also serve as excellent ventilation features for the house. Loft-type bed spaces can be equipped to have a skylight built into the roof while the lower living area, especially the kitchen, can be built to have sliding windows. A rule of thumb is to have windows that are at least as tall as half of the main wall. Keep the window to wall ratio as high as possible.

Window treatments can then be used to control light entry. It would be best to avoid thick curtains as they can take up a lot of space. Traditional blinds do provide a cost-effective solution but if there is money to spare, the best treatments to work with and those which take up the least amount of space are roller shades. As an added bonus, these are easier to clean as well. One swipe with a moist towel and they will be clean as a whistle.

Lamps work excellently as secondary lighting sources while semi-opaque materials work well in letting light enter spaces without access to full windows. As an added bonus, these can also be used as space dividers.

Magnifying Mirrors

Mirrors make spaces appear larger. It would be best to angle the mirror against a focal point. This will give the space an illusion of depth. These can also be used on closet doors to achieve the same effect. Mirrors double as light reflectors making spaces appear brighter during the mornings and evenings. By reflecting light, they also add to the space magnifying effect that tiny homes need. One of the best ways to utilize a mirror in a small house is to place it near a window.

In small spaces, it is best for windows not to be housed in a frame as the latter can easily make it bulky. To be safe against cuts and to protect the mirror from cracking, it would be best to have the edges sanded down and sealed before installation.

The Use of Simple Lines

Add to the streamlined look by using simple lines in the overall design of the home. Keep things clean and save space by avoiding curvatures or arches. The streamlined effect allows for a cleaner overall look when it comes to interior design. Not only does it give the impression of a larger space, the view it projects is also easier on the eyes.

The Idea of Low Sitting Furniture

Make it seem as if the ceilings are higher by opting for low sitting furniture. This may not be for everyone though making it a necessity for each item to be tested first.

Low sitting furniture are furnishings that satisfy the same function as their conventional counterparts without consuming a lot of vertical space. Common examples include Japanese beds, low rising coffee tables, and ottomans.

5. Embrace the Floor to Ceiling Concept

Utilizing every inch of space is the key to succeeding at tiny house living so adopting the floor to ceiling concept especially for cabinetry and shelving is necessary. Aside from offering the most amount of storage, this will allow homeowners to use the furnishings as additional supports for the house.

6. Bring Other Walls Down

Exterior walls give the home its structure while others simply waste space. To maximize the space in a tiny house, a good trick is to eliminate indoor walls and replace them with movable or flowing dividers. Instead of separating the kitchen from the main living area with a wall, make use of a curtain. Sliding doors also work excellently as they take up no extra space when opened or closed unlike conventional swivel doors.

7. Support Outdoor Living

One of the easiest ways to add square footage without spending more money is to create an outdoor living space. A simple outdoor deck with portable lounge chairs is enough to widen the space offered by a tiny home. For houses that are mobile, there are various designs available online as to how the deck can be folded up into one of the main supporting walls.

Aside from offering more space, having an outdoor patio will also make tiny house living more sustainable in the long run. Being confined in a tight space is never good so there is a benefit to having the option to move about and spend time inside and outside of a home. Outdoor decks can also be used to entertain more guests.

8. Love the Loft

Space maximization is essential when living in a tiny house. Homeowners save up on space by incorporating a loft into the overall build. The loft can be accessed by a ladder or a short staircase and usually serves as a separate bedroom. It allows homeowners to make full use of all available ceiling space further supporting the floor to ceiling design concept.

When opting for a loft, the important thing is to make sure that it provides ample space for its purpose. If it will be used as a bedroom, it should at least accommodate the height of the person who will be sleeping on it.

Tips to Keep Your Home Clean



(source: http://blog.homearena.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/mg_6078.jpg)

A tiny home, despite its miniscule dimensions, requires regular maintenance just like a conventional house. The good thing is that there is only a small amount of space that needs cleaning so homeowners have the advantage of a quick chore as it may be put.

Especially if homeowners lose track of their house cleaning regimen, a couple of hundreds of square footage can collect a ton of dirt. Here are some easy-to-follow cleaning tips that can ensure that the house is always in tip top condition and it starts with basic organization.

Everything Should Have Its Place

Homeowners here already have the advantage of working with a limited number of items so organizing should be a breeze. It is important for everything to have its place. Considering the limited floor area, something as simple as leaving dishes in the sink can be an issue. So immediately place clean laundry in the closet, wash dirty dishes and put them in the cupboard, hang coats and bags by the door, and don't leave anything in the middle of the floor.

For Pet Owners: Control for Shedding

May it be stress from a tough day at work or frustration from the daily commute, pets have this capacity to lighten one's day the minute they get home. Having a pet is wonderful indeed but animal fur can be burdensome. It just has this tendency to get everywhere. Shedding on the floor are relatively easy to clean; all it takes is a broom.

For hard to reach corners, a handheld vacuum cleaner with a narrow nozzle attachment

works well. If this is not available, an ordinary sock over the hand will do. Sticky tape is another excellent tool for removing stubborn fur that sticks to pillows, sofas, or bedspreads.

Managing animal hair can help reduce the shedding as well. This means that pets should be taken to the groomer on a regular basis for hair trimming. At home, combing helps a lot and it also ensures that the pet's coat stays healthy.

Set Some House Rules for the Guests

Homeowners can still entertain guests in their small houses and setting house rules is by no means embarrassing. Technically there is only one rule that is necessary to keep the home clean; just ask guests to take off their shoes when they enter the premises.

Clean as You Go

A small space does not call for plenty of time for maintenance. It will involve an even shorter amount of cleaning time if homeowners clean as they go. Crumbs on the kitchen counter after breakfast? Brush them off into the sink. A batch of old papers in the work station? Chuck them into the recycling bin. Straighten things out after they are used. Simple as that.

Fans and Filters are Friends

Even a well-managed space is prone to dust accumulation. This is where air filters and fans work perfectly. Dust is prevented from settling as air circulation is improved.

Designate a Cleaning Day

There should be a designated cleaning day. For a tiny house, once every two weeks will be adequate if homeowners clean as they go. The regimen should include a full mop down of the floors, wiping furniture, cleaning the cooking area, and disinfecting everything in sight.

It would be better if this is to be done more frequently but the beauty with a small house is that there is no need for extensive daily cleaning.

Conclusion



(source: http://www.claremontroad.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/tiny_house_2.jpg)

Living in a smaller space does have its share of restrictions but there are plenty of advantages that this type of lifestyle brings to the table. By adapting to a minimalist way of living, people are able to free themselves from the addicting grasp of modern consumerism.

Instead of focusing on accumulating material possessions to feel good about themselves, these individuals now have the opportunity to concentrate their energies on maximizing the human experience.

The financial, personal, and emotional freedom that tiny house living can lead to allows people to have the time and desire to pursue their passions in life, improve their relationships, and lead a life that is truly worth living.

There may be a number of challenges that come with the transition process. It will involve some financial outlay, manual labor, and a complete lifestyle shift but managed in the right way, people can succeed at an endeavor like this.

It really boils down to individual preferences and a homeowner's viewpoint on what it is that makes a house a home. When everything has been said and done, the only question left to ask is: Are you ready?

TINY HOUSES

Awesome Ideas To Live In Small Houses, Rationalize Space And Feel Large!

Copyright © 2015, Akys Taylor Publishing

By Akys Taylor

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for the use of brief quotations in a book review or scholarly journal.

DISCLAIMER

Although the author and publisher have made every effort to ensure that the information in this book was correct at press time, the author and publisher do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause.

Table of Contents

- [**Introduction**](#)
- [**The Problems Of Small Houses**](#)
- [**Furniture for use in Small Houses**](#)
- [**Ideas to Make Your Small House Look Larger**](#)
- [**Unique Interior Design Ideas for Your Small Home**](#)
- [**Tips to Keep Your Small Home Clean**](#)
- [**Conclusion**](#)

Introduction

Are you living in a small house? More than 70% of people in any country are living in small houses. Small houses are houses that are between 500-1000 square feet in general, but the size can vary depending on your choice. No matter what the issue, if you are living in a small house and have a dream of feeling large while being in that same house then this is the eBook for you. In this book we will discuss several strategies to make sure that your house looks larger and elegant. The book will obviously not make your home bigger in terms of size, but it will give you amazing ideas, decoration tips, and methods which you can use to make sure that your house feels and looks larger.

Your special feeling about your small home is all that matters. If you can feel that you are in a great place while being in a small house, then you will obviously be happy, and that is exactly the impact of this book is going to be have in your life — happiness!

Included here are different chapters containing different, unique ideas. You will learn how to decorate your home to make your small space feel large and what furniture to buy to make sure that your home looks inviting, and well decorated. Although this is a book that targets people who have small houses and want their space to feel large, this book can be read and utilized by people living in any size house. By following the suggestions inside, you can make your home beautiful and welcoming.

You will see suggestions on interior color and decoration of your home, but you don't have to follow everything here. If the book tells you to go for red but you like the color pink, you should go with pink because you don't need to destroy your interest or likings in order to create a feeling of beauty and spaciousness in your home.

If you 're interested in making your small house feel large, this book is going to be a great journey for you. Read slowly through the steps to get an overall picture of the possibilities of enhancing your small home. There is no need to finish one chapter and then execute the ideas that are contained in the chapter. Simply wait until you have completed your study of the whole book and then start to apply the ideas that you want to apply to your small home. You may find that some of the ideas here contradict one another — you will have the option to choose between those options. Review each suggestion and simply go with those that you like and can incorporate into your design for “living larger” in your small home. I wish you the best of luck and enjoyment in your journey.

The Problems Of Small Houses

There are a number of problems that everyone who lives in small houses face. Before we get into solutions, let ' s review these problems. Often, it is a lot easier to understand the solutions once you know and accept the problems that you face in your small home. Acknowledge your concerns first, and then try to know as much as you can about that problem. Knowledge and understanding of any situation provides the power to help you to win any battle.

So let's address some of the most common problems that we face in small houses.

The first problem that we all face in our small homes is obviously the room to move about freely. Small houses don't have much space, but most of our houses have a lot of furniture. This is common because we don't easily get rid of extra furniture when we change our home, and we don't think about our limited space when we buy furniture. Thus, it is a lose-lose situation.

When we don't have enough empty space in our home, the air doesn't flow properly. An air condition running 24/7 doesn ' t always help. Natural airflow is important and if your home cannot get natural airflow, it will start getting damp. If there is rainfall around your home then the situation can be even worse. In general, rainfall or damp weather weakens the walls of small houses that do not have enough room for airflow. This may cause the plaster on the walls to become damp and unsightly, and your home may soon deteriorate in both beauty and structure. Another problem that you may face is a dust issue. Dust is a common problem for homes where there is not enough vacant space for airflow. When small houses have too much furniture in them, it is easy for dust to be under furniture. When there is no airflow in the home, the dust accumulates and starts causing issues such as breathing problems, illness, and unsightly furniture.

Another problem that small homes face is insects. As you already know that small homes are easily affected by dust, you may have already guessed that insects come where there is dust. That is why insects can be a problem when living in a small apartment or a small home. The ultimate problem of living in a small house is not being able to feel " space " . You loved the idea of living in a small home and you now want to feel happy with your decision to do so. You should be comfortable and appreciative of your small space, and if that doesn't happen, you will ultimately become unhappy. The discomfort of living in a small home and feeling restricted can be depressing, and only people who face this issue will understand the problem. But don't worry if the world doesn't know about or understand your problem. It ' s your problem, so let ' s get down to the basics of solving these problems that only those who live in small spaces experience.

No matter what the problem, the target of this book is to make sure that you are living life full size in your small home.

Furniture for Small Houses

This is an important subject for those who are moving into a small house and are planning to buy new furniture. This chapter will give you ideas and tips on what to buy for a small house so that you don't feel that you are living in a small, tight place.

The first thing that we will talk about is bed. If you are a single person then don't go for a master bed. A single bed will leave enough space for other furniture in your bedroom. When you are buying your bed, make sure that the bed has boxes at the side of it. This is pretty common these days. This type of bed will give you extra drawers and places to keep your items.

If you have children then you will obviously need beds for their room. If you have one child then simply go for a child bed, but if you have two children then the best idea is to go for a double-decked bed (or two-tiered bunk bed). If two beds are placed separately in your children's room then there is a high chance that your kids won't have any space to play. Furnishing the room with a double-deck bed allows the room to remain wide open for playing and other furniture. You should never come up with solutions such as sleeping on a couch if you don't have enough space. Our target is not only to save space but also to feel large. A couch won't give you that advantage and therefore, you should ignore it.

A bedroom must have a dressing area, and a dressing area needs mirror. If you want to save space then the best strategy is to go for a wall hanging dressing mirror. These mirrors are popular worldwide and you can even custom make one for your own purposes.

You don't actually need a bedside table for a water glass or a lamp. If you are into reading then you can buy a portable reading light which can be placed directly in your bed while you are reading. If you are not a diehard reader then simply ignore the bedside table and introduce a smart lighting system in your room, such as a wall sconce. Make sure to have a switch near your bed so that you can turn it on and off from the bedside. Wall mounting is also a popular concept when it comes to televisions these days. There is no point in using a table to hold a television. Simply use wall mounting and hang your television on the wall. Make sure that you are using a movable wall mount so that you can easily turn your television to the angle you want.

If you are going for a computer, go with a laptop. The days of a desktop computer for the home are long gone. You should never buy a desktop if you want to save space as they will need an extra table and chair in your home.

Try to use one piece furniture for more than one purpose if you are living in a small place. There are tables that can be used for both lunch, dinner and also as a table on which to work. You can buy a medium-sized table and eat there, read there, or use your laptop on that same table. Place that table near your kitchen for convenience. When you are buying chairs for the table, only buy the number of chairs needed for your family — no extra for guests! Also, make it a universal chair, which can be used at various locations in your home. It can be used to read books, it can be used to chat around and it can also be used to

just sit and take a cup of tea. This chair should be lightweight, as you will be moving this chair often.

Do not use two separate refrigeration system for your everyday goods and long-term storage items. There are models which have both long-term and short-term storage systems in one unit. Both the refrigerator and freezer are combined in a single unit in those systems. This type unit will save a lot of space. If you are a small family, you should not worry about washing clothes in your own washing machine. Simply use a laundry service to clean your clothes. There laundry services that will come to your home on fixed days to receive clothes and will also deliver the fresh clothes to you within a reasonable amount of time. This will cost you a bit of money but you will be able to save a lot of space and work at the same time.

The core idea is really simple: when buying furniture, make sure that you are solving multiple problems at the same time. Also, consider whether that piece of furniture can be wall mounted. If you have that option, then go with that even if the price is a bit higher. You will definitely have long-term benefits if you choose wall-mountable furniture. It can be a television, a bookshelf, or other item suitable for wall mounting.

The next step is to determine if whether this furniture can solve more than one problem. If it cannot solve more than one problem then look for similar alternatives which are able to solve more than one issue. For example, if you are buying a chair for your reading purpose then make sure that this same chair can be used for guests, too. Buy a fancy and comfortable one so that you don't have to buy another separate one for another cause.

Are you planning to buy a bookshelf? Bookshelves are one of the most common items in any home. Even if you don ' t have a library, you must have a place where you keep the regular books, diaries, papers, etc. in your home. A great idea is to go for a wall-mounted bookshelf. With wall-mounted bookshelves you are not only saving space but are also adding an elegant look to your home.

When you are buying a sofa or couch for your living room, try to buy one large sofa or one or two single-seat couches. A large couch will provide a place to take a nap. Also, consider foldable furniture sets. Search the market and you will find furniture that can easily be folded when needed. These pieces of furniture can easily be folded when you are not using them, which will leave a lot of vacant space in your home. Consider each of the decisions that you make in terms of buying furniture. Study the market and you will definitely be able to save a lot of space in your home.

Ideas To Make Your Small House Look Large

This chapter lists suggestions about things that you can do to make sure that your house looks both beautiful and spacious. Follow the ideas that you think will suit your home, and modify the ideas if necessary.

Floating shelves

The first idea is to utilize hanging shelves for books, papers, or other items. This frees up floor space, which adds to the spacious feeling of the room. When choosing shelving in the marketplace, go for length, not depth. You don't want wide shelves, which will take up space in a small room. Long, narrow shelves will take up protrude only a few inches from the wall, while providing a great amount of space for placing your items. Arrange the items in attractive groupings and add beauty to the walls.

Paint the ceiling

Did you know that if you paint in the ceiling, it will make your home look taller? According to the scientists, anything that makes you look at the top of your room will make the room look taller. And you can easily apply this technique to all the rooms in your tiny home. The process is simple. Simply use a separate color for the ceiling and the walls of the home. You can also decorate the ceiling with stars or other items instead of, or in addition to coloring it. These added ceiling attractions are sure to cause the visitor — or the owners — to look up!

Keep it light

Another great idea is to use light colors on both your walls and the floor. Using light colors on your wall and floor will cause light to be reflected to other parts of the home, which will add to the spacious look and feel of your small home. Dark walls and floor will absorb the light from the room, making it appear smaller. Replacing floor tiles is a tough job, so if you have dark-colored tiles on your floor, consider having a professional tile-setter replace them, or, simply use a light color carpet which will have the same benefits.

Furniture placement

When you are placing your furniture in rooms, be a bit creative. There is a way to create an illusion and make your home look big. The rule is simple. Always keep space between your furniture and the walls. Most of us just press the furniture up against the walls, which is not effective if you are thinking about making your space feel large. Wall hugging could obviously save space but you won't be able to feel any open, free-flowing space. On the other hand, if you create some space between the walls and the furniture, you will create

that feeling of spaciousness within the room. This is a proven method, and it is used in several places, including corporate offices.

Built-in and hidden storage

There could be lots of hidden storage space in our everyday items which we often don't consider. Search for areas to use as hidden storage. Simply take a look around your home and note down every single place that can be used as an extra storage space. Note them in your diary and then think of the items that you want to put into those locations.

Do you have a drawer in under you bed or couch? Do you have an empty place under your table? Do you have a phone stand? Use that same stand for a flower pot or vase, too. Elevate your bed and have three or more steps up to get into the bed. Then use all of the space beneath the bed for shelving and create a book nook on each side of the bed. Decorate large

There is an interesting concept in decorating small houses put forth by a well-known designer from the Target Corporation, known as the cantaloupe rule. According to this rule, you should never use lots of decorative items in your home if you are living in a small home. Use only a few decorative items, but at the same time, make sure that those items are big and noticeable. So if you have lots of flower pots, show pieces, toys, etc. in your room, it is time to get rid of them. Buy a decorating item that is big and easily noticeable, and place that anywhere you want. That should be the only decorative item in the room. This doesn't only save space; it also brings large value in your home. Think of it from this perspective. When you go to a small house and find lots of decorative items, do you really feel great? The answer is no. You probably feel confused within the cramped room. Small houses are not designed for tons of decoration; therefore, use one or two decorative items — but make them big and beautiful!

Do you know what fashion specialists tell short women to wear to create an illusion of height? They advise these women to wear striped dresses to make them look taller. You can apply this same concept for your rooms to make them look taller or longer. The idea is super simple. Decorate the walls with vertical stripes in a combination of black and white or or other colors. You can also use a striped carpet to make your rooms look longer.

Organization

No matter if it is simply making your bed up every morning, keeping your kitchen clean and uncluttered, your clothing items put away, your books or other objects on tables or shelving adjusted, try to keep everything organized and structured. A cluttered mess in your rooms will represent that you are living in a tiny place, and you will not feel large in your small space. You don't want that to happen; therefore, always try to be organized.

If you have the chance of building or changing things in your home then make sure that you are not creating a separate showering and toilet room. You can simply go for one larger room and can divide it with a partition. Windows and doors — let the light in!

Many families use covers on top of their windows to get rid of sunlight or for other reasons. Don't use any window coverings, and the room will have more depth and feel larger. If privacy is a concern, consider placing window coverings on rods that are attached to one side of the window and can "swing" to cover the window when needed. Also, consider "pull down" shades that can remain open during the day. Glass doors can create a positive illusion for your rooms, making them appear to bring the outside into the home. Glass doors are easy to implement, and you can easily replace your veranda and main door with glass doors. Glass doors will provide access to light which will cause the room to appear larger.

Did you know that a simple but unique piece of art can change the whole feel of your room? The artwork doesn't have to be pricy at all. If it's unique and well done, it will significantly enhance the look of your home. It's easy: just buy a professional painting from a painter you like. Listen to your instincts because you'll have to live with this painting for a long time. Don't spend too much, but at the same time, make sure the painting is large enough to cover a significant portion of your wall. You'll have to hang this painting on one of your walls and make sure that the color of the painting and the color of the wall complement each other.

Is overhead lighting really all that important to you? If not, then you might as well get rid of those lights. Overhead lights will always create uncomfortable shadows, and at the end of the day, your home won't look particularly great with a lot of them. A great idea is to put lights exactly where you need them. Put a light right beside your bed and another by your reading table. Be creative and play with the color of the light, since creativity goes a long way towards making your home feel bigger.

The last rule is, ironically, to break all the rules. You don't have to follow all the traditional, pre-existing rules. If you live in a small house, you can redesign the whole house like no one ever has before to make sure that the house looks interesting and unique. Remember, people don't necessarily admire the biggest houses; they admire the well-designed houses. And you can easily mesmerize everyone if you're creative enough.

Do you like hanging beds? Then throw out your regular bed and put a hanging bed in the middle of your bedroom. You can easily hide this bed away in the morning to create more space. This is a unique idea that will also serve your space-saving purposes. This should always be the basis of any design decision: go for an idea that is both unique and that helps you save space. That way, your small home will end up feeling large. It's just that simple at the end of the day.

Unique Interior Design Ideas for Your Small Home

Interior design is a key part of decorating any house. Back in the 1950s, interior design wasn't even really around. Since then, people slowly began to understand that if they wanted to live in a well-designed place, they would need to hire specialists. Thus, the field of interior design was born.

As our goal is not only to make our house look big but also to make us feel big in our house, interior design can play a vital role. With the help of interior design, the whole look of the house can easily be changed to make it look big from every angle. Now, interior design is a costly endeavor all over the world. You will have to pay the professionals a lot if you hire them to redesign your house. If you can afford to do that, then that's great, but that's not the point of this book. This book wants to help you do everything on your own. Thus, this chapter will tell you what steps you can take to spruce up the inside of your house.

The first idea is to use different shades of the same color for different rooms. This is one of the latest concepts in the world of interior design. If you use different shades of the same color on your walls, then the rooms will suddenly look completely different. Here's how you can do this if you're confused. If you have a painting on your wall that has blue as its dominant color, make sure that the frame of the painting is light blue. You should also make sure that the wall on which the painting is hanging is yet another shade of blue. Now apply this same theory to all of your walls and go to town! If you want to save money, you have a couple of tricks at your disposal. You don't need to paint your wall; just make sure that the things placed on the wall match its color. Turn the whole idea upside down and put it into action!

Whenever you buy furniture for your rooms, make sure that it matches in terms of material and color. For example, if you buy a dark wooden table for your living room, then the couches should also have some dark-colored wood in them. This will lend the room a classy atmosphere, which will help you feel large at the end of the day. If you don't want to use the same type of materials, then there's another trick you can try. You can go for a theme when designing your rooms — or at least some of them. The benefit of designing your rooms around a certain theme is that you can save a lot of money and the room will never look small. For example, if you have a baby girl, then turn her room into a Barbie garden. You will only have to shell out for a large-sized Barbie and colors such as pink. Decorate her walls with different shades of pink, place a big Barbie in her room, and make sure that the bedsheets and all the other accessories fit the theme. And that's it!

The artificial lighting system plays an important role when it comes to the interior design of your home. First of all, you'll obviously have to make sure that your home receives enough daylight. One great idea is to install a skylight if possible. Now, this is a costly project, but if you can manage to put a skylight in your house, you won't have to think about much else, because nobody will feel small if they can see the sky all the time. A lot of people think installing a skylight will increase the heat in your home, but that's not

necessarily true. There ' s glass available that lets the light come in but reflects the heat. You can install one of those types of skylights if you prefer.

Now, think about the artificial lighting system. If you close your eyes and think for a second about your friends ' houses, you will discover that all of them have a similar lighting system that ' s boring and traditional. It ' s time to think outside the box if you ' re planning to decorate your house. First, install a few hidden lights. The bulbs won't be visible unless you turn the lights on. If you can install a false ceiling, then this will be a really easy process for you. There are small spotlight replicas available on the market that you can install in your false ceiling here and there. This will create an amazing atmosphere in your home. Make sure that you aren ' t only using traditional white lights. Play around with the colors of the lights. Be creative and install as many colors as you want. If you already have enough bulbs and you aren ' t ready to pay for more, buy different colored filters and cover your lightbulbs with them. The colors of these filters will change the colors of the lights in your home.

If you have a regular yard, then you can move the whole dining table into the yard. This may sound weird to a lot of people but it ' s a great idea that will help you save space and be unique at the same time. Put the dining table in the yard and set up a few big lights around the table. You can also install a music system in your yard if you want. Every dinner will feel like a romantic dinner if you follow all these steps. If you have a family and a decent-sized yard, this is something you just have to try.

Kitchen storage is another big place where you can use your creativity. A kitchen always needs lots of storage, so you need to think about saving space while at the same time enhancing the look of your home. One common trick is to put in a cabinet above the sink to make sure that everything is organized, but that ' s too obvious and boring for your house. Since you live in a small house, you need to save space and create something that can make you feel large. One great idea is to create a floor-to-ceiling shelf just for kitchen items. This is a new idea that can only be seen in a few houses these days. Just make sure that you have a floor-to-ceiling storage unit without a wall behind it in the middle of your kitchen. This storage unit can hold all your kitchen accessories. You can also build this storage area right beside your kitchen table, if you have one. Install a couple of fancy lights here and there in this storage unit, and you ' ll be amazed to see the result!

Do you have stairs in your house? Stairs are a great way to save space if you know what you ' re doing. Be creative and install drawers right in your stairs. This idea has already been implemented in some houses. If you look around a little bit, you will find some people who can set the whole thing up for you. Put at least 5 to 10 drawers within the stairs in your house. If you want, you can actually end up removing the closet from your house, since the stair drawers might give you enough space to store your clothes. If you really don't want to store your clothing in the stairs, you can use these drawers for your books. Why would you need a separate bookshelf when you can place everything in the staircase?

Wall beds and wall sofas are pretty common these days. The idea is very simple. There are companies that can install wall beds and wall sofas in your home. Whenever you need the

sofa or the bed, just press a switch and it ' ll pop down from the wall. At other times, they will fold right up and *be* your wall. This is another creative idea that can totally change the look of your room.

Have you considered putting hollow chairs in your rooms? Hollow chairs are chairs that have lots of secret storage spaces in them. You can store your books, clothes, important objects, and anything else you want in these chairs. Moreover, they ' re comfortable to sit in and super light to move. You can actually just use a single chair for your whole house since you can easily move it around without any issues because of its light weight.

Obviously, any interior designer will tell you to buy some paintings for your living room. What they won't tell you is that you can be creative and take the arrangement of the paintings one step further. When you hang a painting on your wall, you ' re actually using up some of the wall space. Instead, why not use the space behind the painting to store something? Or put a mirror behind the painting? Yes, that ' s definitely possible, and it ' s a great idea to boot! It ' s easy. Pick a really big painting and install either a cabinet or a mirror behind it. There are special racks you can use to keep the picture out of the way while using the mirror or cabinet. You can also go the digital route and install a button system where, whenever you push the button, the painting will move aside and the mirror will be revealed. This will not only give your home some hidden advantages, but it will also make your home a digital house, which is definitely a dream come true.

One great way to introduce great design into your home is by doing something big. How about a complete solution for one of your rooms? What you can do is, choose one of the walls in your room and build everything based on that wall. The wall won't be seen anymore after you ' re done with it. Let's use an example to help you understand what we ' re talking about.

Let's pick a wall in your bedroom. Now, what are some of the things in your bedroom? Obviously you have your bed, which is essential. You might also have a bedside table, which also makes sense, but what else? Apart from these two items, everything else in your bedroom can be replaced. Let's use the wall for a cause now. You can actually build a big storage space for your clothing using half of this wall, depending on how big it is. You can even use the full wall if you want. If you have some wall space left, you can use that for a painting, a mirror, a dresser, and so on. That way, one of your walls will be filled but the other three will remain empty. This creates a brilliant illusion which will really help enhance the look of your home.

Now let's learn some final tips for creating a well-designed home. Follow as many of these tips as you can and you ' ll be well on your way to success. Let's start!

If you ' re building your own house, don ' t build a big bathroom if the house is small. A bathroom is a private place and not many people will see or feel this place; therefore, using up valuable space for your bathroom is not a great idea. Try to save space here but, at the same time, make sure you ' re using high-quality equipment and decorations in your bathroom to make it look hygienic and good.

The second tip is to focus on the walls. Obviously you know by now that the walls are the

most important feature when it comes to designing your home, and that 's why you should always pay attention to your walls. Walls should always look their best in terms of color and design. There are people out there who don ' t worry about the discoloring of their walls or dust gathering in the corners. This shouldn ' t be the case in your home. You should always exercise maximum care when designing your walls.

The third tip is to buy furniture carefully so that it meets more than one criterion. This is important because it will serve many purposes at once. It will save money, it will save space, and, most importantly, it will make your home look unique and different.

Remember, the best way to make your house look awesome is by using creativity. A big house with a dull design is nothing compared to a tiny house with a creative design. Play around with your house and experiment with several different designs. Be creative and think outside the box. Buy the equipment you need, because the feeling you ' ll get while doing so can never be compromised.

Tips to Keep Your Small Home Clean

This is an extra chapter that doesn't really fit the main theme. Why did I include this chapter in the book then? The reason is that if your home isn't clean, there's no way you'll ever be able to feel large in your home, no matter how well decorated it is. Therefore, keeping your house clean is one of your most important tasks. This chapter discusses some essential cleaning tips.

Always start your day by doing laundry. You don't have to do laundry every day if you don't want to, but if, say, Wednesday is your laundry day, then make sure that's the first thing you do every Wednesday after waking up. This sounds easy but it actually isn't. Dirty clothes piling up can really damage the look of your house. Human beings are generally quite lazy when it comes to washing their clothes. Don't let that happen in your house.

Always try to wash your dishes immediately after you've finished eating. Don't let them sit in the sink for a long time because it will attract insects. After you're done washing them, make sure you dry them too. Keeping wet dishes in the cupboard is never a good idea as it will make the cupboards start to smell.

Mop your house every night. A lot of people mop their house in the morning, but it's better to do it at night before going to sleep. You may have lots of other commitments in the morning and it's not wise to spend a lot of time cleaning your home in the early morning. Therefore, it's better just to do it at night.

Use a handheld vacuum cleaner or dust buster to clean those tricky, hard-to-reach places. Another common mistake is not cleaning the tough spots due to laziness. This is a huge mistake, though, because dust will start to build up there. Whether it's a tough corner of the bed or a dusty carpet, clean it properly using a vacuum cleaner.

Use a pest control service once every two months whether you have pest issues or not. Don't think you're not affected by pests just because you don't see them around you. It's very easy for them to hide, and most of them only move around at night. Never take the chance; let the experts handle this for you whether you have visible pests or not.

Clean your windows every weekend from the inside as well as the outside (assuming you live on the ground floor). If it's too hard for you to clean the outside of the windows every weekend, then hire a window cleaning service every month or two and let them clean your windows properly.

Apart from these items, continue with the regular cleaning tasks you do every day. Obviously you clean your home in your own way, and these are just some additional tips. Don't stop what you were already doing just to follow these suggestions. Try to combine these tasks to come up with something even better.

Conclusion

Thank you to everyone for downloading and reading this book. I hope this book has helped you decorate your house in a better way. If you found it useful, please recommend it to your friends and family.

Before this book ends, there ' s one last thing you should know. Never feel humiliated by the fact that you live in a small house. Many people live in small houses and they live fantastic lives in their own ways. You can do the same too if you ' re truly determined. Always remember that the feeling of living a large life lives inside you. It ' s not something that comes from the outside. Showing off the beauty of your house to people is never the ultimate dream. The ultimate dream is to live large in your own sweet and simple fashion. Be one of those people and have fun with your house. It ' s your house, and at the end of the day, *you* are the person who sleeps in it. Love your house and play around with it by decorating it thirty different ways throughout the month. Do whatever you want with your house with the goal of making yourself feel satisfied and large. *That* is the ultimate target!

I wish you the best of luck on this journey!

Thank You!

By purchasing this book, you've gained access to 4 books, congratulations!

Actually, there is a BONUS BOOK which you can download by clicking [HERE](#).

Why am I doing this? To thank you for being a loyal customer, as I hope you will find them of great value.

To go back to the first book in the bundle,

[CLICK HERE](#)

Once again, thank you!

Akys Taylor