

HOW TO BUILD A TINY HOUSE ON THE CHEAP

Is it really is possible to build an inexpensive tiny house?

One of the biggest concerns that I hear about around building tiny houses, is how much they will cost. There are many ways you can save money on your tiny house build. Some people have gotten theirs done for less than \$10k. Here's how:

TIME IS MONEY - DO THE WORK YOURSELF

...or how I could have saved \$14,000!

Labor is a major cost when it comes to construction of homes, tiny or not. While it's probably impractical for you to build your own 2,000 square foot home, a 200 square foot tiny house is much more manageable.

I was working full time while also building my tiny house, and I wanted it to go faster so I hired help. My house got done quicker, but about \$14,000 of my \$42,000 tiny house was spent on labor. If I had done it all myself, that would have brought the price tag down to \$28,000

Example: Macy Miller

Macy built her tiny house using all her own labor plus mostly recycled and donated materials. She started with a used trailer, which saves quite a bit of money, and was able to do the entire project for a whopping budget of \$11,416.16.



SO, TO SUM IT UP:

- Do the work yourself
- Use volunteer labor when possible

SALVAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

...or how I could have saved at least \$5,000

As with most items, buying used is cheaper than buying new. That is especially true for [construction materials](#). Often times, home owners get rid of perfectly good kitchen cabinets, appliances, windows, doors, and more because they have decided to remodel. Even better,

when contractors mistakenly order the wrong size item, the client pays, but the item gets sold or given away.

I used almost all new materials for my tiny house, including a brand new trailer (\$4200), windows (~\$5000), kitchen cabinets (\$2000), and more. I know I could have saved at least 50% by [searching for salvaged materials](#).

Note that I do not recommend using a used trailer *unless* it is in excellent condition.

Example: Ethan Van Kooten and Amy Andrews

These two college students did the ultimate salvage: They started off with a salvaged building! They transformed an old farm outbuilding into a \$489 tiny house.



SUMMARY: USE SALVAGED....

- Windows
- Kitchen Appliances
- Flooring
- Finish Lumber (interior walls and trim)

BUILD FOR WHAT YOU NEED

Since tiny houses can be so inexpensive, they don't need to be everything that you'll need forever.

If your tiny house will only be seasonal housing, you can save a ton of money by skipping expensive insulation.

If your tiny house doesn't need to be mobile, don't build it on a trailer: Trailers are a major expense.

Example: Tiny Vacation Cabin

This impressive vacation cabin was built for about \$7k in just 2 weeks! This cabin is not insulated, which means it is only used during the summer (or is in a climate that does not get cold). This cabin is also not built on wheels, saving the cost of a trailer (\$3k-\$5k).



ONE MORE TIME

- Don't build what you don't need
- [Skip the trailer](#) if your house will stay put

WANT MORE INFO?

My 200-page comprehensive guide will help you ask *all* the questions that need to be answered before you ever lift up a hammer or buy a set of plans. Don't start planning your tiny house without it! At just \$39, it will save you many hours of research and hundreds if not *thousands* of dollars on your build!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

