

10 Minutes for the Planet

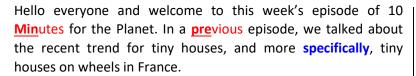
The Tiny House Community ©

by Valentine Rinner

Accompagnement lexical et phonologique - Noele Bouazouni ©

Retrouvez la traduction de certains mots à droite du texte

Les syllabes accentuées sont en gras et soulignées*



Tiny houses on wheels are <u>regularwood-structured</u> houses, except that they are built on top of atrailer. In France, tiny houses are <u>usually</u> 2.5 meters large by 6 meters long and 4 meters high, making for an <u>average</u> of 15 square meters, including a sleeping loft. These tiny houses also must be lighter than 3.5 tons.

Most tiny houses include a living/dining space with an open kitchenette, a bathroom with a shower and composting toilets, and a bedroom loft. However, some designscan also incorporate a child's bedroom, an office, a second loft, and a terrace. The idea when designing tiny house is to identify the future inhabitant's exact needs and eliminate all those extras that aren't needed. That means that each tiny house is different and they're always entirelyadapted to your needs. Some are built offgrid, while others can be connected to city water and electricity.

Because of the 3.5-ton weight restriction, the choice of construction material is central. Wood is a very popular option. Most tiny houses also have an ecological approachto their construction, often selecting recycledmaterials.

Because these houses are transportable, you don't need a <u>permit</u> to build them – all you are required to do is simply declare the house to local au<u>thor</u>ities and pay a <u>flat tax</u> of 150 Euros per year, as applicable to all other mobile housing. However, you will need an <u>authorisation</u> from your local municipality to park your tiny house for more than three months on <u>private property</u>.

It's easy to find **advice** within the tiny house community based on owners own experiences regarding which municipalities are supportive of such housing alternatives and which are reluctant.



specifically (adv.) précisément

trailer (n.) caravane

usually (adv.) en général, d'habitude

average (n.)moyenne

to design (vb.) concevoir, dessiner (un plan)

off-grid (adj.)hors réseau

flat tax (n.) impôt à taux unique

advice (n.) conseils

The community is also a rich source of information regarding insurance and which companies are open to new types of accommodations and which will refuse to consider alternatives. Believe it or not, it can get tricky to get your tiny house insured properly because the concept of full-time tiny house living is new and doesn't quite fit in existing categories, while still being at the experimental stage. However, every day tiny housers share new information on the different online sharing platforms. The most popular is the "Collectif Tiny House" Facebook group and the Tiny House France .org website. There are plenty of blogs out there where tiny housers share insights on their new lifestyle and are happy to share both their successes and failures. If you're interested, do have a look online to find if tiny housers are hiding near where you live. There are also a few events **hosted annually** by different companies and collectives that include visits and workshops. And every year there are more of these **popular** events.

If you haven't heard of tiny houses till now, wait and see as the trend develops. We're not there yet in France but in the United States, there are even two reality shows about tiny houses on wheels. We may soon catch up!

Now have a good day! And stay tuned for next week's episode of 10 Minutes for the Planet.

reluctant (adj.) réticent

tricky (adj.) difficile, compliqué/délicat

plenty (n.) beaucoup
insight (n.) connaissance

to host(vb.) recevoir, accueillir

workshop (n.) atelier

catch up (phrasal vb.) rattraper

*Aide à la prononciation

Pour les mots qui finissent avec une consonne ou un « y », l'accent tonique est souvent sur la première syllabe.

rarity, optimal, gradient, generous