

LESS SPACE, MORE STYLE - TINY HOUSE LIVING MAGAZINE!

# TINY LIVING



Tiny House  
Hub

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Photo Credit: Tiny House Builders

# COMMUNITY TIPS LEAD TO RECOVERY OF STOLEN TINY HOUSE POD

By Sharla May - Tiny House Hub

## [View digital article](#)

In a dramatic turn of events, a tiny house pod stolen from [Tiny House Builders Ltd](#) in Katikati was successfully recovered on Thursday afternoon, thanks to community tip-offs. The bespoke two-bedroom pod, along with its trailer and a company truck, was brazenly stolen in the early hours of Monday morning, sparking an immediate and widespread call to action led by the company's founder, Rebecca McLean.

The theft occurred after thieves skilfully evaded security measures, manipulating the property's cameras, and forcefully breaching the security gates. The stolen items included a uniquely designed tiny pod, which was awaiting delivery to the client within the fortnight and custom tiny house trailer. McLean's prompt response to the incident involved reaching out through social media, urging the community to report any sightings of the distinctive structure. Her appeal paid dividends when many sightings and tip-offs came through. The information was swiftly relayed to the police, who executed a search warrant, leading to the pod's recovery on a residential property in Ngongotahā, along with other stolen goods.



A breakthrough came when members of the public reported seeing the stolen pod being towed towards Rotorua, with the abandoned truck later being found on Wednesday in the Pyes Pa area. The community's tips were crucial, leading to a police search warrant being executed at a residential property in Ngongotahā on Thursday afternoon. The operation resulted in the pod's recovery, one arrest, and ongoing investigations for an additional suspect. [South Waikato Load Pilots and Towing](#) played a pivotal role in the pod's return, ensuring the tiny house was safely transported back to Tiny House Builders on Friday morning.

Despite the successful recovery, the company reported that some of the staging furniture was damaged, and the pod had sustained significant cladding damage during the ordeal, but nothing that can't be fixed.

The rapid response and substantial public support have been commended by McLean, who expressed profound gratitude towards the community and the police for their relentless efforts in ensuring the return of the stolen property.

She continued to receive sighting reports even on it's return trip to their yard.

The recovery of the tiny house pod is a testament to the strong sense of community, demonstrating that unity and vigilance can make a significant difference in combating crime. Tiny House Builders Ltd is now reviewing their security measures to prevent future incidents.

The company remains committed to providing unique tiny house solutions and is grateful towards the community and the police for their indispensable roles in the recovery process. She also reiterated the importance of security awareness and community support in preventing such incidents in the future.

For those looking to reduce the risk of their tiny house being stolen, we recommend reading the article "[Thieves Love Tiny Houses Too: Keep Yours Secure with These Tips!](#)" for valuable security insights and tips. This guidance could prove essential in protecting your cherished tiny home from potential theft.



Photo Credit: Tiny House Builders



Photo Credit: Tiny House Builders



Photo Credit: Tiny House Builders



# TINY, TOUGH, TREMOR-PROOF: 10 WAYS TO SHIELD YOUR TINY HOME FROM EARTHQUAKES

*By Sharla May - Tiny House Hub*

The allure of tiny houses on wheels (THOWs) is undeniable, offering mobility, simplicity, and a closer connection to nature. However, the question of their safety, especially in the face of earthquakes, often arises among potential and current owners. Leveraging insights from those who have navigated seismic challenges, this article presents a top 10 list of strategies to fortify your tiny home against earthquakes, ensuring your quaint living space remains safe and secure.

## **1. Ensure Your Trailer's Integrity**

The foundation of a THOW's earthquake resilience lies in its trailer. Confirm that the tiny house is securely bolted to the trailer, preventing it from tipping or detaching during seismic activity. Regularly inspect the trailer for signs of wear or damage and avoid using jack stands as a long-term solution due to their potential to fail under stress.

## **2. Install a Trailer Suspension System**

A suspension system is essential for absorbing the shocks and tremors of an earthquake, reducing the risk of damage to the THOW. This system allows the trailer to sway gently with the earthquake's motions, rather than resisting them, which can prevent structural damage.

## **3. Adopt Robust Building Techniques**

Start with a solid frame, ensuring that your tiny house can withstand the forces of an earthquake. Techniques such as connecting studs with plates at both the top and bottom of the structure and using additional supports can significantly enhance your home's durability.

## **4. Secure Interior Items**

Just as in traditional homes, securing interior items can prevent injury and damage during an earthquake. Use locks on cabinets, secure shelving units, and anchor heavy furniture to the

walls to keep your belongings in place during seismic activity.

**5. Choose Your Parking Spot Wisely**

Location can play a crucial role in earthquake safety. Park your THOW away from tall trees, buildings, and other structures that could fall and cause damage during a quake. If possible, choose locations known for their stable ground and low seismic activity.

**6. Understand Your Home's Movement**

Recognising how your THOW is likely to react in an earthquake can help you prepare effectively. Like the sensation of being in a moving train or airplane described by THOW owners during earthquakes, your home is designed to move with the quake, which can reduce the risk of structural damage.

**7. Reinforce Windows and Doors**

Reinforcing windows and doors can prevent them from jamming or breaking during an earthquake. Consider installing shatterproof glass and sturdy door frames to enhance safety.



Photo Credit: Häuslein Tiny House Company

**8. Prepare an Emergency Kit**

Having an emergency kit readily available is essential. Include necessities such as water, non-perishable food, a first-aid kit, flashlights, and extra batteries. Ensure that everyone in the home knows where the kit is and how to use its contents.

**9. Create an Evacuation Plan**

Know how to quickly and safely exit your THOW in the event of an earthquake. Practice your evacuation plan regularly and ensure that all occupants are familiar with the safest exit routes.

**10. Stay Informed About Seismic Activity**

Stay informed about seismic activity in your area using apps and notifications from local geological services.

By implementing these top 10 tips, you can significantly enhance the earthquake resilience of your tiny house on wheels. Earthquake preparedness involves not just understanding the structural aspects of your home but also adopting a proactive approach to safety. With careful planning and preparation, you can enjoy the benefits of tiny house living with peace of mind, knowing that you are well-prepared for seismic events.



# BEYOND THE MYTHS

## THE REALITIES OF TINY HOUSE LIVING UNCOVERED

By Sharla May – Tiny House Hub

Tiny house living has captivated imaginations worldwide, symbolising a shift towards minimalism and sustainability. Yet, misconceptions abound, clouding the reality of this lifestyle. Here, we address and debunk some of the most prevalent myths, shining a light on the truths of tiny living.



### Myth 1: Tiny Houses Mean Constantly Living on the Road

Contrary to the nomadic lifestyle often associated with them, tiny houses on wheels are not designed for perpetual travel. Their mobility allows for easy relocation rather than frequent road trips. These homes are built to be sturdy and stationary assets that can move with you, should you decide to change your scenery.

### Myth 2: Tiny Living is a Sign of Poverty

The assumption that tiny house residents are financially strained overlooks the diverse motivations behind choosing this lifestyle. Many opt for tiny living for its minimalism,

environmental benefits, and the freedom from a mortgage, not out of financial necessity. Additionally, tiny houses have become popular luxury holiday rentals, proving that this lifestyle choice spans across various economic backgrounds.

### Myth 3: Lack of Privacy is Inevitable

While tiny houses offer less space than conventional homes, clever design and layout planning can ensure ample privacy for residents. Strategic placement of different rooms and utilising outdoor spaces effectively can create private nooks within a small footprint, proving that tiny doesn't mean exposed.

### Myth 4: Only Suitable for the Youthful and Single

The tiny house movement is not exclusive to the young and single. Many individuals and families, including retirees looking to downsize and simplify their lives, find tiny living appealing. Tiny houses offer a practical solution for those seeking to live closer to loved ones or desiring a simpler home during their retirement years.



Photo credit: Location Homes

**Myth 5: You Must Sacrifice Modern Luxuries**

Choosing a tiny house doesn't mean forgoing modern comforts. Today's tiny homes can include luxury amenities like dishwashers and baths. The focus is on prioritising what truly matters to the homeowner and customising the space to fit those needs without clutter or excess.

**Myth 6: Entertaining Guests is Out of the Question**

Tiny houses can be designed with entertaining in mind. Options such as dual-purpose rooms, fold-away furniture, and extendable outdoor decks allow for social gatherings without compromising space. Creativity in design ensures you can host guests comfortably and stylishly.

**Myth 7: Family and Pet Unfriendly**

Contrary to the belief that tiny houses are unfit for families or pets, many find these spaces ideal for fostering closer family bonds and enjoying outdoor activities. Pets, too, can thrive in tiny homes, provided their need for space and privacy is considered in the home's design.

**Myth 8: Cramped and Claustrophobic Spaces**

Innovative design and smart use of space can make tiny homes feel open, airy, and spacious. High ceilings, large windows, and multi-functional furniture can transform a small footprint into a comfortable, versatile living area.

**Myth 9: Tiny Homes Lack Durability and Safety**

Tiny homes are constructed with the same attention to durability and safety as traditional



Photo credit: tinyhouseblog.com

homes, often with added mobility considerations. Quality materials and construction techniques ensure these homes are safe and built to last.

**Myth 10: A Temporary Solution or Passing Trend**

Far from being a short-term trend, tiny living reflects a growing awareness of sustainability, minimalism, and the value of living within one's means. Tiny homes offer a long-term lifestyle choice for those committed to reducing their environmental footprint and focusing on what's truly important in life.

Tiny house living challenges conventional notions of home and happiness. By debunking these common myths, we hope to offer clarity and insight into the tangible benefits and joys of living tiny. Far from a lifestyle of compromises, tiny living is about maximising life with minimal space, proving that sometimes, the best things really do come in small packages.

Step inside the world of tiny living... [Click here for video tours of our clients' awesome tiny houses featured on Living Big in a Tiny House!](#)





# TINY KITCHEN'S, MIGHTY FUNCTIONALITY: SMART LAYOUTS AND STORAGE HACKS

By Sharla May - *Tiny House Hub*

Embracing tiny house living requires reimagining space usage, particularly in the kitchen — the home's hub. Crafting a kitchen within a tiny home calls for ingenuity and creativity to ensure it's functional, stylish, and space-efficient. This exploration delves into various kitchen layouts ideal for tiny homes, alongside invaluable tips for maximising storage and the advantages and disadvantages of each design choice.

## Selecting the Appropriate Kitchen Layout

**Galley Kitchen:** Excellently suited for slender spaces, the galley kitchen, with workspaces and appliances on two facing walls, ensures optimal use of every centimetre for storage and activity areas. Its streamlined form facilitates cooking tasks but may seem restrictive for some.

**L-Shaped Kitchen:** Ideal for a corner setup, this layout presents a spacious ambiance with counters and appliances along two perpendicular walls. It supports an efficient workflow and accommodates a dining spot, though it may limit simultaneous cooking by multiple people.



**Single-Wall Kitchen:** Tailored for minimalists, this layout aligns all kitchen components along a single wall, offering a sleek appearance. It's a masterclass in space conservation but may challenge extensive cooking endeavours due to the limited worktop area.

**Island Kitchen:** Space permitting, an island can introduce valuable additional counter space and storage, complementing both L-shaped and single-wall kitchens. It fosters social interaction but necessitates thoughtful spatial planning to prevent a crowded feel.





### Leveraging Colour and Lighting

The strategic use of colour can alter the perception of space in your kitchen. Light shades offer an open, airy feel, whereas deeper tones lend a cosy, intimate vibe. Reflective finishes and well-planned lighting, including task and under-cabinet lights, can make the kitchen appear larger. Maximise natural light through windows or skylights for a more open sensation.

### Choosing Flooring Wisely

The selection of flooring can influence how spacious a tiny kitchen appears. Larger tiles or broad plank flooring reduce the number of grout lines and joints, creating a more expansive visual effect.

### Maximising Storage

In a tiny kitchen, storage is paramount. Capitalise on every available space by installing cabinets that reach the ceiling, integrating pull-out mechanisms, and employing ingenious solutions like hanging rods for cookware. Embrace vertical storage by mounting shelves in unused nooks to keep your kitchen orderly and spacious.

### Opting for Compact Appliances

Given the spatial constraints, reconsidering the size of appliances is crucial. Smaller versions of kitchen staples, including fridges, cookers, and sinks, fit perfectly in tiny kitchens without sacrificing essential functions. Integrated appliances, seamlessly built into cabinetry, save precious space and contribute to a tidy aesthetic.

### Integrating a Dining Area

Incorporating a dining solution within the kitchen is often necessary in tiny homes. A corner banquette or counter seating can serve as a charming dining area without requiring extra room, doubling as additional storage if needed.



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### Keeping Clutter at Bay

A tidy kitchen feels larger and more inviting. Adopt a minimalist mindset, retaining only the essentials and ensuring each item has a designated place. This approach extends to worktops, where maintaining uncluttered surfaces significantly affects the kitchen's overall ambience.

### Design Insights and Storage Innovations

**Exploiting Vertical Space:** Utilising open shelving not only facilitates access to everyday items but also visually extends the room's height.

**Innovative Storage Solutions:** Magnetic spice racks and adhesive hooks can dramatically declutter the space, turning walls into valuable storage areas.

**Optimising the Sink Area:** Supplementary

worktops, such as over-the-sink chopping boards, and collapsible drying racks enhance functionality.

**Smart Cabinet Organisation:** Customisable dividers, retractable shelves, and hidden bins under the sink maximise storage efficiency.

**Choosing Space-Saving Appliances:** Compact, multifunctional appliances save space while fully catering to cooking needs.

Designing a kitchen in a tiny house involves balancing functionality with aesthetics. By selecting an effective layout, maximising storage, and choosing suitable appliances and colours, it's possible to create a kitchen that's both practical and delightful. The challenge of limited space is an opportunity for innovation and customisation. With thoughtful planning and creative solutions, your tiny house kitchen can epitomise efficiency and elegance.



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# SHEILA AND NOEL'S TINY HOUSE JOURNEY TO FINANCIAL LIBERATION IN WEST AUCKLAND

By Sharla May – Tiny House Hub

Nestled in the verdant landscapes of West Auckland, Sheila and Noel Boddington have not merely found a home but have embraced a whole new way of life. Transitioning from their spacious 250 sqm abode with its breathtaking views of the harbour and city, to a tiny house, was a journey of simplification, sustainability, and substantial financial liberation. This shift was about more than downsizing their living space; it was about enhancing their quality of life. In an exclusive chat with Tiny Living Magazine, the Boddingtons share their heartfelt story, the impetus behind their move, and the enriching experience of tiny house living.

## Initial Decision and Motivation

Their voyage into the realm of tiny living began when their once bustling home became noticeably quiet and overly spacious. "Our large home suddenly felt too big and very empty," Sheila reminisces. The realisation that they didn't require such an expansive space coincided with their aspiration to eliminate their mortgage. Motivated by their daughter Shaye's

contentment in her tiny house, they opted for a significant change. "We sold our house at the market's peak in November 2021, just in time before Cyclone Gabriel struck," Noel notes, grateful for their timely decision.



### Financial Planning and Realities

Achieving financial freedom was a pivotal factor for the Boddingtons. "Clearing the mortgage meant we could live comfortably, but we yearned for more from our retirement," Sheila states. Tiny living allowed them to indulge in rural life minus the financial constraints of owning a lifestyle block. "We designed our tiny house to suit our needs and found an idyllic spot on a 5-acre paddock," she continues. This move brought them closer to nature and significantly cut their living costs.

### Lifestyle Adjustments and Changes

Adjusting to tiny living was smoother than expected. "We're totally off-grid, and our solar system remained intact through Cyclone Gabriel," Noel proudly states. Their bespoke home means there's nothing they miss from their previous lifestyle. "Getting rid of so much unused stuff was liberating. Now, we only have items we truly use," Sheila highlights the joy of decluttering.



### Space Utilisation and Living Dynamics

Designing their tiny home was a detailed process, especially considering their senior years. "Easy access was crucial, so our bedroom is downstairs," explains Sheila. The house is both a snug living space and a welcoming area for guests, with a spacious, covered porch acting as an outdoor living area.

### Satisfaction and Reflection

Reflecting on their move, the Boddingtons couldn't be happier. "Having money in the bank now allows us to invest in our children's businesses," Sheila shares. Their decision to go tiny has provided them not only with financial security but also with a sense of contributing to their family's future in meaningful ways.



### **Impact of Economic Factors**

In the current economic landscape, they feel vindicated in their decision. "We're thankful we're no longer burdened by a mortgage," Noel says. Selling their traditional home at the market's peak spared them from the subsequent housing crash and the devastation of Cyclone Gabriel.

### **Advice for Aspiring Tiny House Owners**

For those contemplating the tiny living lifestyle, the Boddingtons advise, "Downsize! Really, get rid of almost everything. And make sure your design suits your lifestyle." They emphasise the importance of organisation and preparation for receiving your tiny home.

### **Quality of Life Comparison**

Their quality of life has significantly improved. "Living in a tiny house is incredibly stress-free. We now have more time for activities we enjoy," Sheila says with a smile. The couple enjoys a closer bond and a more relaxed lifestyle amidst nature.

### **Community Interaction and Social Life**

Living tiny hasn't hampered their social life. "We still enjoy hosting BBQs and having guests over,"

Noel points out. They advocate for a simpler lifestyle, recognising the unsustainable trends in conventional housing.

### **Personal Relationships and Self-Reflection**

Tiny living has also led to self-discovery. "I've learned that sometimes it's okay to break the rules," Sheila admits, discussing their decision to bypass council regulations for tiny house living. This choice taught them the value of carving their own path, even if it means going against the grain.

### **Environmental Considerations**

The Boddingtons take pride in their tiny home's minimal environmental impact. "Our composting toilet is as environmentally friendly as it gets," Sheila says. Their sustainable living practices showcase a profound respect for the planet.

### **Future Prospects and Plans**

Looking forward, they are dedicated to tiny living for the long term. "This is our forever home," Noel declares. They believe tiny living is crucial for the planet's future and an ideal living solution for a wide range of individuals, from first-time homeowners to single parents and retirees.

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- **Smokers:** No
- **WiFi Connection:** No
- **Private Location:** Yes



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Laken and Kaya, a young and industrious couple in their mid to late twenties, have recently embarked on the tiny home lifestyle and are now in search of a welcoming plot in Auckland to call home with their two adorable shih-tzu-cross dogs. Both working full-time in the North Shore, they're committed to a longer commute for the right place. They envision a space with power (via caravan plug), optional water access (though they're ready to use a tank), pet-friendliness, 4G reception, and the potential to add personal touches like a deck with pergola, garden shed, vegetable gardens, a small fenced area for their dogs, composting toilet, and a grey water system. Known for their easy-going, clean, and respectful nature, they're excited to meet landowners willing to support their tiny house dream.

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