

LESS SPACE, MORE STYLE - TINY HOUSE LIVING MAGAZINE!

# TINY LIVING

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Tiny House  
Hub



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New application that  
Makes Tiny Homes  
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# TINY HOUSES THAT VANISH? NEW APPLICATION THAT MAKES TINY HOMES INVISIBLE!

**By Sharla May - Tiny House Hub**

In an era where the tiny house movement converges with cutting-edge technology, a groundbreaking innovation has emerged: a new cladding application that renders tiny houses virtually invisible. Dubbed "Nano Etheralloy Application," this revolutionary product promises a new level of privacy and security, especially for those seeking to avoid navigating the complexities of council regulations or avoid the prying eyes of nosy neighbors.

Developed by The Paint Laboratory, a startup specialising in nanotechnology-based home solutions, Nano Etheralloy Application employs a sophisticated blend of light-reflective nanoparticles and adaptive pigments. This unique composition allows the application (applied in 6 separate layers) to bend light around the structure, making the tiny house look like it has disappeared from the human eye,

"Nano Etheralloy Application is not just a paint; it's a privacy solution," explains Dr. Lara Quint, lead researcher at The Paint Laboratory. "It leverages principles of optical camouflage to blend tiny houses into their surroundings seamlessly. Think of it as an invisibility cloak for your home."

The science behind Nano Etheralloy Application draws from developments in quantum stealth technology and biomimicry, mimicking the natural camouflage abilities seen in some species of cephalopods, like squids, which can change their skin color and pattern to blend into their environment. "By replicating these biological processes at a nanoscopic level, we've achieved a dynamic camouflage effect for static structures," Quint adds. The implications of this innovation extend beyond mere aesthetics.

For tiny house communities and individuals who face zoning challenges or land-use restrictions, Nano Etheralloy Application offers a novel way to maintain a low profile. It also addresses security concerns, as invisible homes are less likely to attract burglars or unwanted attention.

Adding to the innovation of Nano Etheralloy Application, a New Zealand-based tiny house building company has stepped into the limelight, not by standing out, but by virtually disappearing. They've been at the forefront of testing this new, science-fiction-like product as part of a pioneering trial aimed at revolutionizing tiny house living. This collaboration is not without its strategic benefits. Firstly, the cost of applying Nano Etheralloy Application to a tiny house is significantly lower than treating a traditional, larger home. The smaller surface area of tiny homes makes this innovative treatment more accessible and economically viable for owners, who are often drawn to tiny living because of its affordability and sustainability.

Secondly, there's been a discernible shift within the tiny house community towards a desire not just to live minimally, but also to blend seamlessly into their surroundings. Many tiny house enthusiasts choose this lifestyle to minimize their environmental impact and live more harmoniously with nature. Nano Etheralloy Application amplifies this ethos, allowing these miniature dwellings to disappear into the landscape, further reducing their visual footprint. Despite its advantages, the introduction of Nano Etheralloy Application has sparked a debate among urban planners and regulatory bodies. Some express concerns about the potential for misuse, such as evading property taxes or circumventing building codes. However, proponents argue that the technology fosters a more harmonious relationship between tiny house living and the environment, reducing



visual clutter and blending human habitats with natural landscapes.

The New Zealand company's involvement in the Nano Etheralloy Application trial underscores a growing trend in the tiny house movement towards innovations that not only challenge traditional housing concepts but also offer practical solutions to contemporary living challenges.

As the tiny house industry continues to evolve, it's clear that the desire for less conspicuous living is driving technological advancements that could one day become standard in this burgeoning sector.

With such promising results from the trials, both the creators of Nano Etheralloy Application and the participating tiny house company are optimistic about the future. They envision a world where tiny homes not only offer a sustainable and affordable housing solution but also an invisible one, blending perfectly into the beautiful New Zealand landscape and beyond, making a statement by choosing not to be seen.

**- April Fools!**





# THE EVOLUTION OF TINY HOUSES: A LOOK BACK AND FORWARD

*By Sharla May - Tiny House Hub*

## A Global Perspective

The tiny house movement, a revolutionary shift in architectural design and lifestyle, has transcended its niche status to become a global phenomenon. This evolution reflects a growing societal emphasis on sustainability, minimalism, and the desire for financial freedom. Originating as a counter-culture ideal in the 1970s, the movement gained momentum in the early 2000s, particularly in the United States, where it became synonymous with simplicity, ecological responsibility, and a conscious choice to live debt-free.

Globally, the appeal of tiny houses has been broad and varied. In Europe, they are seen as a solution to urban housing crises, a testament to minimalist living, and a practical response to increasing urban density. Scandinavian countries,

known for their commitment to sustainability and quality of life, have embraced the concept wholeheartedly, integrating smart, eco-friendly designs that complement their natural surroundings. Meanwhile, in Asia, space-efficient living has long been a necessity rather than a choice, making the tiny house movement a natural extension of existing cultural norms.

## New Zealand's Unique Journey

In New Zealand, the tiny house movement resonates deeply with the national psyche, which values innovation, connection to nature, and the Kiwi do-it-yourself attitude. The country's breathtaking landscapes provide a stunning canvas for tiny homes, many of which are built to maximise views and minimise environmental impact. The movement in New Zealand is also a reflection of the housing market's challenges,

offering an alternative path to homeownership amidst soaring property prices.

New Zealand's approach to tiny living is distinctive. The movement is not just about individual homes but also about community building and sustainable living. Initiatives like tiny house villages and eco-communities are gaining traction, providing a glimpse into a future where living small could mean living collectively in harmony with the environment. These communities are designed to be socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable, aligning with New Zealand's broader environmental goals and the Kiwi ethos of kaitiakitanga, or guardianship of the land.

### The Future Outlook

Looking forward, the tiny house movement shows no signs of slowing down. Innovations in design, technology, and materials continue to push the boundaries of what a tiny home can be.



Smart homes, incorporating renewable energy, water recycling systems, and intelligent space-saving solutions, are becoming the norm. These advancements are making tiny houses more comfortable, functional, and sustainable, appealing to a broader segment of the population.

In New Zealand, the legal landscape is gradually adapting to accommodate tiny houses more formally. Discussions around zoning laws, building standards, and sustainability benchmarks are ongoing, reflecting a growing recognition of tiny homes as a legitimate, long-term housing solution. This evolving regulatory environment is expected to pave the way for more innovative, eco-friendly housing solutions, further integrating the tiny house movement into New Zealand's cultural and architectural fabric.





Photo credit - Tiny Away

In New Zealand and around the world, the tiny house movement invites us to envision a future where our homes are not just places to live but reflections of our values, our commitment to the environment, and our sense of community. As we look back on the journey of tiny houses and anticipate what the future holds, it's clear that the essence of this movement – to live intentionally, sustainably, and in harmony with our surroundings – will continue to inspire and evolve, reshaping our landscapes and our lives.

### Embracing a Tiny Future

The evolution of tiny houses is more than just an architectural trend; it's a cultural shift towards redefining what home means in the 21st century. As the world grapples with environmental challenges, economic pressures, and a reevaluation of lifestyle choices, tiny houses offer a beacon of sustainability, simplicity, and a return to the essentials of living.



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# ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

## THE ROLE OF POLICY IN SHAPING NZ'S TINY HOUSE MOVEMENT

*By Sharla May - Tiny House Hub*

In New Zealand, a land renowned for its stunning landscapes and innovative spirit, the tiny house movement is gaining momentum. As more Kiwis turn to these compact, eco-friendly homes as a solution to the housing crisis and a pathway to a simpler lifestyle, the spotlight intensifies on the policies governing them. Advocates are now pushing for legislative evolution to accommodate this growing trend, highlighting the crucial role of policy in shaping the future of tiny house living in the country.

### **The Current Policy Landscape**

The legal framework surrounding tiny houses in New Zealand is complex and, at times, convoluted. The ambiguity stems from how these structures are classified: Are they buildings, necessitating compliance with the Building Act 2004, or vehicles under the Land Transport Act 1998? This classification affects everything from where a tiny house can be placed to the building codes it must adhere to.

Local council regulations add another layer of complexity, with zoning laws and district plan rules varying significantly across regions. Some councils have embraced the movement, recognizing tiny houses as a viable housing solution, while others enforce stringent regulations that can stymie their development.

### **The Advocates' Push for Clarity**

Advocacy groups and tiny house enthusiasts are at the forefront, lobbying for clearer, more consistent policies that reflect the unique nature of tiny homes. They argue that current regulations are ill-suited for these innovative dwellings, often forcing owners into a grey area of compliance and hindering the movement's growth.

The call for change is loud. Advocates are not just seeking modifications to existing laws but are championing the introduction of new policies specifically designed for tiny living. Their proposals include the establishment of a separate classification for tiny houses, streamlined building consent processes, and the implementation of national standards that acknowledge their unique requirements.





### The Potential Benefits of Policy Reform

Reforming policy to support tiny houses could have widespread benefits, addressing several pressing issues facing New Zealand today. Firstly, it could significantly alleviate the housing shortage, offering affordable, sustainable alternatives to traditional homes. Additionally, it aligns with the country's environmental goals, promoting a lifestyle that reduces carbon footprints and encourages a closer connection with nature.

Moreover, clear, supportive legislation would empower more individuals to embrace tiny living without the fear of legal repercussions, fostering innovation in sustainable housing solutions and potentially sparking a tiny house revolution in urban and rural areas alike.

### A Collaborative Future

The future of tiny house living in New Zealand is deeply rooted in the collaboration between advocates, policymakers, and the broader

community. Progressive local authorities, some of which have already begun integrating tiny houses into their housing strategies, showcase the potential for this cooperative approach. These pioneering efforts highlight that, with supportive policies in place, tiny houses have the potential to become a significant element of New Zealand's housing landscape, offering innovative solutions to contemporary housing challenges.

The tiny house movement in New Zealand is more than a trend; it's a reflection of a growing desire for a sustainable, financially viable, and minimalist way of life. As advocates continue to push for legislative change, their efforts underscore the essential role of policy in transforming tiny living from a niche alternative to a mainstream housing solution. The coming years will undoubtedly be pivotal, with the potential to reshape New Zealand's residential architecture landscape, making it as diverse and dynamic as the Kiwis it aims to house.



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# FROM HOUSEBUS TO TINY HAVEN: MATILDA'S TALE OF SIMPLIFIED LIVING

By Sharla May – Tiny House Hub

Matilda's tiny home located in Auckland, stands as a testament to sustainable living and personal contentment. With her three small dogs as her companions, she shares her journey from the constraints of conventional housing to the liberating embrace of a tiny house. Her story is not just about downsizing physical space but also about expanding the horizons of her life.

## Embarking on a Tiny Journey

Matilda recounts her initial move to New Zealand 16 years ago, where the daunting prospects of mortgages, high rents, and undesirable flat-sharing nudged her towards an alternative living solution. "I stumbled upon a housebus in Motueka and instantly saw my future," she shares. The decision was transformative, leading her to her current tiny home, a space designed meticulously to her tastes and needs.

## Designing a Dream

The transition from the housebus to a tiny house was driven by a desire for a home tailored to her preferences. "Designing my tiny house was like

sketching my dreams onto paper," Matilda explains. She spent months perfecting her design, ensuring every inch of her new abode would be just right. The result? A bespoke tiny home crafted with recycled materials and imbued with personal touches, from the hand-painted walls to the custom-built kitchen shelves.





### A Life Reimagined

Living tiny hasn't just been about managing space but redefining her lifestyle. Matilda's home, with its cosy lounge and loft bedroom, is designed for comfort and simplicity. "It's not about the size; it's about the quality of your living space," she asserts. Her approach to tiny living is pragmatic, blending functionality with her ethos of minimalism and sustainability.

### Sustainable Living, Sustainable Self

Matilda is particularly proud of the environmental footprint of her tiny home. She's implemented a grey water filtering system and is committed to using eco-friendly products. "Every small choice in a tiny house feels like a big step towards preserving our planet," she reflects, highlighting the conscious decisions that tiny house living entails.

### Navigating Challenges

Storage is a common challenge in tiny living, but Matilda has found inventive solutions, utilising every nook for storage while keeping a separate shed for larger items. She admits to not entertaining much but finds joy in the simplicity and intimacy of her lifestyle. "My home is my sanctuary, and it's perfect just the way it is," she says.



### A Future Unbound

Looking ahead, Matilda sees herself continuing her tiny house journey indefinitely, relishing the freedom to relocate her home wherever and whenever she desires. Her advice to potential tiny house dwellers is heartfelt and practical: "Know it's right for you, and always plan ahead, especially regarding land rental agreements."

### Parting Thoughts

Matilda's tiny house experience is a narrative of empowerment, sustainability, and personal fulfilment. "If you're considering it and it feels right, dive in," she encourages. Her story is a vivid illustration that tiny living isn't just about downsizing your space but about expanding your life's quality, one small step at a time. Her home may be tiny, but her satisfaction in this chosen lifestyle is immense, proving that sometimes, the smallest spaces hold the biggest hearts.





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**NEW**

## LAND FOR LEASE



Land Lease Opportunity for Tiny House in Naiper, Hawkes Bay



**HAWKES BAY**

 [Click here to view the full listing](#)

 \$150 per week

- **Available:** 01/03/2024
- **Site foundation:** Flat grass
- **Water connection:** No
- **Power connection:** No
- **Off-street parking:** Yes
- **Pets:** Yes
- **Child Friendly:** Yes
- **Smokers:** No
- **WiFi connection:** No
- **Private location:** No

Introducing a tranquil 500m2 bare section in the serene Bay View township, perfect for those seeking to park their Tiny Homes on Wheels. This piece of land, adorned with a row of hedge bushes at the front for privacy, offers a blend of coastal charm and convenience, situated within walking distance to the beach for those who love fishing or enjoying breathtaking sunrises. Ready for both short-term and long-term occupancy, the section currently lacks utilities but discussions around provisioning power, water, and more can be tailored to your needs. Featuring a shared driveway and surrounded by lush grass, this spot promises a blend of communal living with ample personal space.



NEW

## LOOKING FOR LAND

For a housebus in Wellington



WELLINGTON

[Click here to view the full listing](#)

### Looking for:

- **Power connection:** No
- **Water connection:** Yes
- **Off-street Parking:** No
- **Pet Friendly:** Yes
- **Child Friendly:** No
- **Smokers:** No
- **WiFi Connection:** No
- **Private Location:** No



As they transition from traditional living to embracing the housebus lifestyle, a young, dynamic professional in Horticulture is searching for a piece of land to call home in the coming weeks or months, timing contingent upon the sale of their current rental.

Accompanied by Boots, a well-trained and friendly five-year-old cat, they plan to bring a self-sufficient energy solution to their new setup with solar power, only requiring access to water. Ideal for landowners looking to lease their space to an individual passionate about both their profession and sustainable living, this prospective tenant promises to be a considerate and low-impact addition to any property.

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