

LESS SPACE, MORE STYLE - TINY HOUSE LIVING MAGAZINE!

# TINY LIVING



**Tiny House  
Hub**

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**FEATURED LAND  
FOR LEASE**  
NEW SITE FOR LEASE IN  
THAMES, WAIKATO

## INSIDE THIS EDITION!

### **THIS KIWI COUNCIL JUST SOLVED TINY HOUSE LIVING**

**Why Can't other  
Council's Catch Up?**

### **SANTA'S NAUGHTY LIST OF TINY HOUSE FAILS:**

**A Festive Guide to  
What NOT to Do with  
your tiny house build!**

### **ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...**

**Not to Get Scammed  
buying a Tiny House!**

# THIS KIWI COUNCIL JUST SOLVED TINY HOUSE LIVING

WHY CAN'T OTHER COUNCIL'S CATCH UP?

By Sharla May - Tiny House Hub

The Western Bay of Plenty District Council has just set the bar for what a forward-thinking, common-sense approach to tiny house living looks like. Their [Internal Policy for Assessing 'Tiny Home' Type Structures](#) is not only comprehensive but refreshingly transparent—available online for all to see. And, frankly, we're wondering why the rest of the country can't get its act together like this.

For tiny house owners, this document is nothing short of a game-changer. Whether your home has wheels, is connected to in-ground services, or sports a cute little deck, this document lays out the rules in clear, practical terms. No jargon, no red tape, no running around in circles trying to get answers—it's all there in black and white.

The council didn't just stop at being helpful; they made it ridiculously easy. [The document is publicly available](#), cutting through the usual confusion with a level of clarity that other councils should be taking notes on. Here's the thing: New Zealand has been struggling with housing affordability for what feels like forever. People are turning to tiny homes as a solution, but instead of councils rolling out the welcome mat, most seem content to leave tiny house owners in the dark. And that's where Western Bay of Plenty shines. They've proven that it's not hard to make life easier for tiny house owners. A simple document. A bit of transparency. A dash of common sense. It's not rocket science, yet somehow, so many councils are still fumbling around like it's 1999.

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## This Kiwi Council Just Solved Tiny House Living.

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If Western Bay of Plenty can do it, what's stopping everyone else? This isn't just about one council doing a good job—it's about holding the rest accountable.

“Every council in New Zealand should have something like this,” says [Bethan](#) one tiny house advocate. “It's honestly embarrassing that most don't. Housing affordability is a national crisis, and this kind of practical, clear guidance will make a huge difference.”

Let's be real—there's no good excuse for not following Western Bay of Plenty's lead. They've shown that a transparent, user-friendly approach isn't just possible; it's the way forward.

Councils have a responsibility to their communities to make housing solutions like tiny homes viable.

Instead of confusing rules hidden in a labyrinth of bureaucracy, councils should be stepping up to support Kiwis trying to find affordable housing.

In a sea of sluggish, out-of-touch policies, Western Bay of Plenty is the standout. Their internal guide isn't just a resource—it's a statement. It says, “We see you. We get it. Let's make this work.”

To the other councils out there: take a long, hard look at this and ask yourselves why you're not doing the same. Because right now, Western Bay of Plenty is making you all look bad.

Tiny homes might be small, but the ideas coming out of Western Bay of Plenty are massive. The rest of New Zealand's Councils, it's time to catch up.

**“We see you.  
We get it. Let's  
make this  
work.”**



Photo Credit - Tiny House Builders Ltd

# SANTA'S NAUGHTY LIST OF TINY HOUSE FAILS:

A FESTIVE GUIDE TO WHAT NOT TO DO WITH YOUR TINY HOUSE BUILD!



Tiny houses: they're cute, they're cosy, and they're the ultimate symbol of freedom. But let's get real—building one is no walk in the park. Behind every stunning Instagram-worthy tiny home is a string of mistakes, mishaps, and outright what-were-we-thinking moments. Lucky for you, some brave souls have fessed up, so you can learn from their questionable decisions and avoid making the Naughty List yourself.

## 1. The Composting Toilet That Betrayed Everyone

Composting toilets sound great, right? Save the planet, reduce waste, feel smug about your eco-credentials. That is until one builder skipped on ventilation and urine separator and turned their tiny home into a human-sized litter box. The moral of the story: if you're going green, go all the way—or prepare for the stench of regret.

## 2. The Shower That Couldn't Handle the Pressure

There's nothing like a powerful shower to wake you up—unless the water just dribbles out. One couple invested in a high-pressure showerhead, dreaming of luxurious, invigorating sprays. But they overlooked a critical detail: their off-grid

setup. Their water pump, it couldn't muster the pressure needed to make their fancy showerhead and taps work properly. The water barely trickled, turning their spa-like vision into a frustrating drip. In the end, they had to replace everything with low-pressure fixtures that matched their pump's capacity and preserved their precious water supply. Lesson learned? When you're off-grid, practicality always trumps luxury!

## 3. Loft Ladder or Medieval Torture Device?

One DIY enthusiast thought a steep ladder would save space. Technically, it did—if you don't count the space needed for ice packs and plasters after climbing it. Turns out, designing a ladder without consulting an actual human body doesn't end well. Word of advice: test your loft access before you commit to the build—or invest in a crash helmet.

## 4. The Fridge That Ate the Kitchen

One family just had to have a large full-sized fridge. Fair enough, right? Except it ate up all the counter space and left their "kitchen" looking more like a snack-sized nook. Sure, their veggies stayed fresh, but where were they supposed to chop them? Rule #1 of tiny living: the bigger the appliance, the smaller your cooking dreams.

### 5. The House That Bent the Trailer

Heavy timber floors? Gorgeous. Slate countertops? Stunning. A cast-iron bathtub? Chef's kiss. But cram all that weight onto a trailer that wasn't built to handle it, and you're asking for trouble. One owner learned this the hard way when their trailer buckled under the strain, leaving their dream home sitting crooked and immovable. Forget towing—it wasn't going anywhere, full stop. The lesson? Tiny homes might be small, but weight limits are no joke. Always match your materials to your trailer's capacity—or risk your house becoming a very expensive lawn sculpture.

### 6. Open-Plan Living... Too Open

Minimalism is great, but there's such a thing as too open plan. One couple skipped the bathroom door because, "It makes the space feel bigger." Spoiler: it didn't make their relationship feel stronger. Trust us—there are things you don't want to hear, see, or smell, no matter how much you love someone.

### 7. Sunlight Sabotage

Big windows? Gorgeous. Badly placed big windows? A sauna in summer and a freezer in



Photo Credit - [\\_justdoingourthing\\_](#) instagram



Photo Credit - Niche Design Build

winter. One builder learned this the hard way after orienting their windows for the view, not the weather. If you want natural light without natural disasters, think about shading, placement, and thermal curtains. And maybe invest in a good fan.

### **8. “We Don’t Need Storage”... Said No One, Ever**

Minimalists love to preach about owning less. But try telling that to someone who can’t find a spot for their vacuum cleaner or winter coats. One couple thought they could make it work without extra storage. By Christmas, they were stacking decorations under the bed and storing shoes in the shower. Lesson: no matter how minimalist you are, life happens. Be ready for it.

### **9. The DIY That Went Up in Flames**

Kiwis love a bit of DIY, but wiring your own house? That’s a risk you don’t want to take. One eager owner decided to play electrician, skipping the professionals to save a few bucks. The result? Faulty wiring that sparked a full-blown fire, leaving their tiny dream house in ashes. To make matters worse, their insurance wouldn’t pay out, citing improper installation as the culprit. The moral of the story? Some jobs are best left to the pros. Because nothing burns faster than your savings—and your dreams—when things go up in smoke.

### **10. The Cheap Trailer Gamble**

If your tiny home is on wheels, the trailer is everything. But one builder spent their whole budget on flashy finishes and went bargain-bin hunting for the foundation. Surprise, surprise—it didn’t survive its first trip down the road. The lesson here? Don’t scrimp on your foundations!

### **The Wrap-Up**

Tiny house living is a lifestyle of beauty and simplicity—but getting there? It’s a rollercoaster of laughs, tears, and the occasional head scratcher. The good news? Every mistake comes with a lesson, and every lesson gets you closer to the tiny home of your dreams.

So, whether you’re just starting your build or already living the tiny life, take these tales to heart. Learn, laugh, and maybe add a bathroom door while you’re at it. Because the best tiny homes aren’t just built—they’re earned, one (hopefully not-too-costly) mistake at a time.

**“Faulty wiring that sparked a full-blown fire, leaving their tiny dream house in ashes.”**

# ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

## NOT TO GET SCAMMED BUYING A TINY HOUSE!

Ah, Christmas—a time for joy, goodwill, and, sadly, a prime opportunity for scam artists targeting unsuspecting Kiwis. From Auckland to Otago, scammers are flooding platforms like Facebook Marketplace with enticing offers on tiny homes, shipping containers, and portable cabins. These deals often come with prices that are too good to be true—and spoiler alert: they are.

### **A Growing Problem Nationwide**

Police across New Zealand are reporting a surge in tiny house scams, with victims losing thousands of dollars. A common ploy involves fake sellers using aliases, such as 'Sarah Hill,' to advertise tiny homes for around \$10,000.

### **Here's how it typically works**

The scammer convinces the victim to transfer money upfront, promising an unbeatable deal. Once payment is made, the listing disappears, all communication is blocked, and the money is unrecoverable. Many scammers operate from overseas, making it nearly impossible to retrieve the stolen funds.

### **Real People, Real Losses**

One victim has reported losing \$10,000, while others have also suffered significant financial losses. Police are urging anyone affected to report the scam by calling 105 and quoting file

number 231007/7573. Acting quickly can help prevent further damage and alert others to potential fraud.

### **Stay Safe with These Tips**

Protect yourself from falling victim to these scams by following these precautions:

#### **Meet, Inspect, Repeat**

Always insist on viewing the tiny house or item in person before making any payments. A trustworthy seller will have no issue meeting you and showing you the item. If they make excuses like being overseas or unavailable, it's a red flag.

#### **Avoid Upfront Deposits**

Never transfer money before receiving the item. Genuine sellers won't pressure you into paying upfront. If they do, walk away.

#### **Verify the Seller**

Check the seller's profile for ratings, activity, and mutual connections. A sparse profile or lack of information is a major warning sign.

#### **Reverse Image Search**

Scammers often steal photos from legitimate listings. A quick reverse image search can expose stolen images and confirm if the listing is fake.

### Know Market Rates

Research current prices for tiny homes and land. If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. Scammers rely on unusually low prices to lure in victims.

### Trust Your Instincts

If something feels off, trust your gut. Take your time, ask questions, and don't let anyone pressure you into rushing the process.

### Spread the Word

Tiny house scams thrive on urgency and holiday distractions, but the more we talk about them, the harder it becomes for scammers to succeed. Help friends and family—especially those less tech-savvy—understand the risks and how to avoid them.

### Act Fast If You're a Victim

If you believe you've been scammed:

1. Report it: Contact Police at <https://www.police.govt.nz/use-105> or call 105.
2. Contact your bank: Immediately suspend your account to prevent further losses.

**“Police across New Zealand are reporting a surge in tiny house scams, with victims losing thousands of dollars.”**

### Keep Your Holiday Cheer Intact

Don't let scammers ruin your tiny house dreams or your Christmas spirit. By staying vigilant and spreading awareness, we can protect ourselves and others from falling victim to these schemes.

This holiday season, let's be clear with our wishes: “Dear Santa, I'd love a tiny house—but skip the scammers, thanks!”

# Scam alert!





## Wondering how to find land for your tiny house or motorhome?

Landshare: New Zealand's online directory connecting tiny house owners and land owners.



**NEW**

## LAND FOR LEASE



Land Lease Opportunity for Tiny House in Thames, Waikato



**THAMES**

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

 [\\$200 per week](#)

- **Available:** 1st Jan
- **Site foundation:** Gravel
- **Driveway foundation:** Gravel, short driveway, easy and flat access
- **Water connection:** Yes
- **Power connection:** Yes
- **Off-street parking:** Yes
- **Pets:** Yes
- **Child Friendly:** No
- **Smokers:** No
- **WiFi connection:** Yes
- **Private location:** No

Nestled on a 200-acre property in the picturesque Kauaeranga Valley, this 900m<sup>2</sup> flat and sunny site is perfect for long-term tenants seeking a rural retreat. With easy road access, plenty of parking, and a stony stream nearby, the location offers tranquility and convenience. In summer, a private swimming hole just meters away makes this spot truly special.

The site features a septic treatment system, hard standing, and a large water tank connected to a permanent spring, though we recommend collecting drinking water from your roof. There's space to grow your own food in two raised garden beds filled with rich topsoil, alongside established feijoa and lemon trees. Surrounded by regenerating bush and ancient kauri, the property blends natural beauty with modern practicality.

NEW

## LOOKING FOR LAND

A peaceful place to call home for a lady & her old cat.



Canterbury

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

### Looking for:

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

Quiet, responsible 49-year-old female with a self-contained 5.75m caravan (plus annex) seeks a peaceful, long-term site near Christchurch. Currently working full-time in the city and studying part-time, I'm tidy and low-key with no smoking, vaping, drugs, or parties. Accompanied by my 12-year-old cat, I'd love a location that could also accommodate my horse, though it's not essential. I have a small storage shed for laundry and storage but can use an existing one if available. After 2.5 years of caravan living, I'm looking for a tranquil spot to call home.



## Leasing land for a tiny?

Protect your interests with a land lease agreement by the Tiny House Hub

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