

LESS SPACE, MORE STYLE - TINY HOUSE LIVING MAGAZINE!

TINY LIVING



JUNE 2025 | ISSUE 28

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Could your tiny house be this year's winner?



GONE WITHOUT A TRACE

THE QUIET RISE OF TINY HOUSE THEFT IN NEW ZEALAND

By Sharla May

It sounds like a bad joke: "What do you call a tiny house with wheels and no security? Missing.

But for a growing number of New Zealanders, the punchline lands like a punch in the gut.

Over the past year, a spate of tiny house thefts has quietly swept across the country, from the rugged hills of Northland to the sleepy backroads of the Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, and Kapiti Coast. Entire homes, often painstakingly built with savings, sweat, and dreams of financial independence, have vanished in the dead of night.

Each story follows a chillingly similar script: the owner arrives home to an empty patch of earth. The house, the furnishings, the solar setup, the memories... all gone.

Many are off-grid homes. Some were uninsurable. All are mobile, and that, is precisely the problem. If they know what they're doing, thieves can be off-site with your tiny home in 10 minutes flat."

And once they're gone they are hard to trace. Often repainted or modified to change their appearance, most leave no paper trail. In many cases, there's not even a registration plate to track.

Andrew* had just finished building his tiny home in Northland. It was due to be lifted onto a permanent site, but it was stolen before this could happen. "It's gutting. I built that house. I know every screw, every board. And now... someone's sleeping in it, somewhere else."

Curious about **tiny houses?**

 Tiny House Expo

31st Oct - 2nd Nov Mystery Creek Hamilton

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Like many tiny house owners, Andrew didn't have insurance. Policies are difficult to secure, some providers still don't recognise tiny homes on wheels as insurable dwellings. He asked that we not publish his full name while police investigations are ongoing.

Tiny houses, once the fringe dream of off-gridders and minimalists, are now a legitimate, and increasingly lucrative, alternative to traditional homes. With builds ranging from \$40,000 to over \$200,000, they're a low-risk, high-reward target for opportunistic thieves.

Worse, the legal grey area surrounding tiny homes doesn't help. Without a clear classification in many councils, and with few formal registration or ownership systems in place, the recovery process is patchy at best. People don't steal what they can't get rid of, they know tiny houses are a soft target. No VIN numbers. No GPS. No database. No deterrent. And ironically, some of the very rules designed to enable tiny living may be contributing to the problem.

Several councils, in their attempts to distinguish tiny homes from permanent dwellings, have strict conditions that the home must remain "moveable" at all times. In practice, this often means owners are discouraged from removing wheels or securing the trailer in any way that would make it harder to tow. Features like removable tow hitches or locked wheel clamps can be frowned upon, or even cited as non-compliant.

"It's a catch-22," says one builder. "If you make the tiny home harder to steal, you can fall foul of council rules. But if you follow the rules, you're essentially making it easier for someone to hook up and take off with your tiny home."

It leaves owners caught in a difficult balancing act, trying to satisfy local councils while also protecting what may be their biggest asset.

What You Can Do (Before It Happens to You)

While the law plays catch-up, owners are left to protect themselves. Here's what you can do to make your tiny house less of a target:

Clearly made for each other

Protect your tiny home and stop bathroom condensation, mould, mildew and steam at the source with a Showerdome® shower top.

[Find out more](#)

showerdome



GPS Tracking Devices

This is the single best step you can take. Affordable tracking devices with real-time alerts can be discreetly installed in hidden spots inside your tiny home. While they won't prevent a theft, they massively increase the chances of getting your house back quickly, and in one piece. New Zealand-based providers like [Feetpin](#) offer tiny house owners local support and reliable systems tailored for off-grid or mobile living.

Block It In:

If possible, park your home in a way that requires significant effort to move, boxed in by other vehicles, fences, or on a locked site.

Security Cameras and Trail Cams:

Motion-activated cameras can help identify thieves, or at least scare them off. Dummy cameras are cheap and still act as deterrents.

Wheel Locks and Tow Ball Locks:

Install quality locks designed for caravans or trailers. Cheap ones can be smashed off in seconds, invest in heavy-duty gear.

Mark and Register:

Engrave your name and phone number in hidden places (under floorboards, behind panels). Keep a record of serial numbers for appliances and equipment. Photograph the house from all angles.

Community Watch:

Keep your neighbours informed. The tiny house community is tight-knit and highly alert. Sharing

"Don't just assume that tiny house theft is something that happens to other people. That's what everyone thought, right up until it wasn't."

suspicious activity could be the difference between recovery and a cold trail. Tiny homes are a brilliant way to live, affordable, flexible, and full of freedom. But that freedom also means they're ridiculously easy to tow away if you haven't made any effort to stop someone doing exactly that.

It's a hard truth, but here it is: if your tiny house is on wheels, it can easily be stolen, GPS trackers, wheel locks, tow ball locks, cameras, none of these are expensive compared to losing your entire house. It's not paranoid to prepare for theft. It's practical. Like brushing your teeth so they don't fall out, or not leaving your keys in the ignition with a sign that says, "Please return by Monday."

Because at the end of the day, the best deterrent isn't hope, or a post in your local Facebook group, it's actually doing the boring stuff that makes your house annoying to steal.

Make it difficult. Make it traceable. Make it not worth the effort. And whatever you do, don't just assume that tiny house theft is something that happens to other people. That's what everyone thought, right up until it wasn't.



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Tiny Homes on

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Wheels*



TINY HOME, ZEN VIBES

HOW TO MAKE A TINY HOME FEEL LIKE A SPA RETREAT

By Sharla May

There's something mildly scandalous about the idea of turning a tiny home into a spa retreat. Like wearing silk pyjamas on a Tuesday. Or pouring oat milk into your coffee without first checking the use-by date. It feels decadent. Audacious. Possibly illegal in some suburbs. But here's the thing, you don't need a million-dollar view, a plunge pool, or a massage therapist named Sven. You just need to create the vibe. And as every woman who's ever rebranded her nervous breakdown as a "wellness sabbatical" knows, vibe is everything.

So, if your tiny home currently says "damp yoga mat and overdue laundry," here's how to zhuzh it up until it whispers: Namaste, darling. You're doing amazing.

You could be in a broom cupboard with a composting toilet and three confused geckos, but if it smells like lemon myrtle and eucalyptus, you are in a spa. End of.

Invest in one of those reed diffusers that makes you feel posh even though it came from the supermarket's "seasonal impulse buys" shelf. Candles are good too, not the ones that smell

like cupcakes, unless you want to relax and simultaneously binge-eat half a loaf of banana bread.

Go for something botanical. Something that sounds like it could heal your chakras and get rid of your ex's bad energy. "Wild fig & bergamot"? Yes please. "Driftwood & sea salt"? Practically a personality.

Now, I know minimalism can be a dirty word. It conjures up images of stark white rooms and judgmental storage baskets. But in a spa-style tiny home, you're aiming for calm, not clinical. So take a deep breath and be brutal. If it doesn't serve, soothe, or spark joy (or at least match the towels), it goes.

Pro tip: hide things in woven baskets. No one needs to know your "Zen corner" doubles as storage for your receipts, batteries, and that one sock whose mate ran off in 2022. This is where the magic happens. And by "magic," I mean *steam, lotions, and pretending the sound of running water is spiritually cleansing and not a reminder that the water tank is running low.*

Upgrade your shower head, it's the best money you'll ever spend that doesn't end in cheese. Go for one that rains down like tropical bliss rather than spitting lukewarm regret.

Buy one fancy towel. Not a multipack. One. It should feel like hugging a cloud that moisturises. Add a plant. Bathrooms love plants. So do spa retreats. Suddenly, you're not in your tiny house, you're in a private rainforest retreat, and you only take calls from people named "Chakra."

Harsh downlights are for interrogations and budget dental surgeries. Not your home-spa. Get yourself a dimmable lamp. Or a few battery-operated candles if you're off-grid and dramatic (who among us isn't?). Warm lighting = instant ambience. Plus, you'll look ten years younger in soft light, which is free Botox if you ask me. If you've got fairy lights, string them like you're decorating a tent at Coachella for introverts. Bonus points if they twinkle.

Spa people don't just drink water. They drink *infused* water. Lemon, cucumber, mint, basically anything you'd usually find shoved in the back of your fridge. Pop it in a big glass dispenser or a retro jug and leave it out like it's just there by coincidence and not a strategic mood enhancer. Suddenly, every sip feels like self-care. Bonus: it makes you look like someone who owns matching linen napkins.

The right music can drown out noisy neighbours, barking dogs, and the low-level dread of your unread inbox. Create a "Spa Vibes" playlist. Words like "serenity," "bamboo," and "healing harp" should feature heavily. If you're more into lo-fi beats, that works too. Just make sure it says "peaceful retreat" and not "someone's teenage nephew is mixing tracks in the shed again." Use the nice stuff. The nice oil, the nice body wash, the robe you've been saving since 2018 in case you suddenly get invited to a luxury resort. Tiny home spa living means making ordinary Tuesday nights feel like a getaway. Light the



candle. Slather the lotion. Put cucumber slices on your eyes even though they slide off immediately and you always eat them after, which is technically gross.

If you've got a little deck, porch, or even a step, that is now your spa garden. Add a chair. Add a pot plant. Sit there and breathe deeply like you're not five metres from your compost bin. If you're brave, cold plunge. That could be a fancy tin bath, a sea swim, or standing under the garden hose shrieking and calling it "lymphatic therapy." Whatever works.

Your tiny home doesn't have to be perfect. But if it makes you feel calm, centred, and vaguely like Gwyneth Paltrow before she went full candle-mad, you've nailed it. (And just to be clear: don't buy her candle. You know the one.)

Now go forth and marinate in eucalyptus. You deserve it.

Better Together: Why *Showerdome* Is a Tiny House Essential



Sponsored Content

In the world of tiny living, every design decision matters and nowhere is that more obvious than in the bathroom. In compact homes, motorhomes, cabins, and tiny houses, the bathroom is often a multifunctional zone: a place to refresh, store essentials, and sometimes even double as a laundry space. But small bathrooms have one big problem - moisture. Steam builds up quickly, fogging mirrors, dampening surfaces, and creating the perfect breeding ground for mould and mildew. That's where **Showerdome®** comes in. Thoughtfully designed for small spaces, it protects your tiny home from excess moisture, ensuring a drier and warmer home, all without taking up an inch of extra space, or compromising design aesthetics or layout.

"Whenever You Can Eliminate Moisture at the Source, It's Best to Do So"

That's the advice from one tiny home owner featured in a recent design video, and we couldn't agree more. In fact, that particular episode gave an unscripted, enthusiastic shout-out to **Showerdome®** as a must-have in tiny

home builds - highlighting how a small space can benefit hugely from steam elimination.

With limited airflow, it doesn't take much for warm, moist air to spread, settle, and cause condensation on every surface. That excess moisture not only makes your space feel damp and uncomfortable, but over time constant dampness can lead to peeling paint, warped cabinetry, and expensive damage.

Moisture control in tight spaces isn't just about comfort—it's about protecting your investment.

A **Showerdome®** shower top stops steam from forming in the first place. By preventing the warm air inside your shower from mixing with the cooler air in the bathroom, it eliminates the root cause of steam and condensation at the source.

"With limited airflow, it doesn't take much for warm, moist air to spread, settle, and cause condensation on every surface".



The result? Dry walls, clear mirrors, and a bathroom that stays in better condition for longer. In smaller living spaces, that's a game changer.

More Comfort, Less Energy

A **Showerdome®** helps contain the warmth where it matters most - inside the cubicle. This reduces the need to heat the entire bathroom or rely on constant ventilation to manage moisture.

Many customers also find they use less hot water, since the enclosed space stays comfortably warm without needing to turn up the temperature. For Tiny Homes with solar setups or limited water heating systems, that's a real advantage.

Plus, because steam is stopped at the source, moisture doesn't seep into nearby spaces, helping to keep furnishings, bedding, and storage areas dry and protected.

Less Mould. Less Cleaning. More Living.

Without a **Showerdome®**, steam condenses on ceilings, tiles, and walls. Over time, that constant moisture becomes the perfect environment for mould and mildew. In small spaces, especially those with limited natural light or airflow, mould can be hard to control and even harder to clean.

By keeping your bathroom dry, a **Showerdome®** drastically reduces mould risk. That means fewer harsh chemicals, less scrubbing, and a healthier home environment - especially important for anyone with allergies, asthma, or sensitivities to damp.

Perfect Fit for Small Spaces

Showerdomes come in a range of sizes and shapes and can be trimmed to fit



most standard shower cubicles. To support the tiny living movement, we've specifically developed two low-profile **Showerdome®** models with a reduced height of just 60mm, making them ideal for compact spaces with lower ceiling clearance. These "low-blow" designs were created with tiny homes in mind, offering all the same steam-stopping benefits without compromising on any of the benefits.

Installation is quick and non-invasive, and once in place, it's virtually invisible and won't crowd your space or change the look of your bathroom.

Proudly Kiwi Made – and Loved

At **Showerdome®**, we take pride in being New Zealand owned and operated—and we're equally proud of the incredible feedback we receive from customers across the country. With countless five-star reviews and word-of-mouth recommendations, Kiwis consistently tell us that installing a **Showerdome®** makes a noticeable difference to the comfort, look, and longevity of their bathroom. Installing a **Showerdome®** in your Tiny Home is a smart investment in protecting your space, your health, and the value of your home for years to come.

Ready to Transform Your Tiny Bathroom?

Visit www.showerdome.co.nz to learn more, view sizes, or book an installation.

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TINY HOUSE OF THE YEAR

COULD YOUR TINY
HOUSE BE THIS
YEAR'S WINNER?

2025
TINY HOUSE
OF THE YEAR

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The 2025 NZ Tiny House Awards are officially open, and your delightful little dwelling could be about to have its moment.

Whether it's a polished commercial build, a one-of-a-kind DIY creation made with more elbow grease than budget, or something so jaw-droppingly clever it deserves its own Netflix special, this is your time. These awards are here to celebrate the quirky, the beautiful, the practical, and the downright genius of tiny house living in Aotearoa.

Let's talk logistics (briefly, promise).

Entries are open until 22 July 2025. Winners announced at the [Tiny House Expo](#) at Mystery Creek on the 31st October. Cash prizes! Every category winner gets \$500, and the big kahuna, Tiny House of the Year, walks away with \$2,000 and eternal glory (well, at least a very nice certificate and a fanfare from us).





This year's categories:

- Best Commercial Build
- Most Creative Design
- Best DIY Build
- People's Choice
- Tiny House of the Year

And here's the lovely part: it's free to enter. We just ask for thoughtful answers, clear photos, and real insights about your build. We're not interested in generic marketing waffle about what your business could do. We want to know exactly what you did. If the question asks how your home is sustainable, we don't want "it's sustainable" and a sad tumbleweed rolling by, we want the juicy details on how!

Not only do these awards shine a spotlight on incredible Kiwi craftsmanship and innovation, but they're also a way to inspire others, grow the tiny house movement, and maybe, just maybe, make your neighbours quietly jealous (in a nice way).

And a giant thank you to our major sponsor, **Tiny Towing Solutions**, who are absolute legends and make these awards possible. So go on, enter your build, or if it's not quite finished yet, send this to someone who's already living in a tiny house that deserves a round of applause.

Because let's face it, when it comes to homes with heart, brains, and clever use of space, New Zealand tiny houses are leading the charge.

[FIND OUT MORE](https://www.nztinyhouseawards.co.nz)



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 **Christchurch**



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

 \$150 per week

CHRISTCHURCH

- **Available:** Now
- **Site foundation:** Solid, level grassed area.
- **Water connection:** Yes
- **Power connection:** No
- **Off-street parking:** Yes
- **Pets:** No
- **Child Friendly:** Yes
- **Smokers:** Yes
- **WiFi connection:** No
- **Private location:** No

Peaceful lifestyle block 30 minutes from town, surrounded by gardens and nature. Water is available at the well and house, and there's limited power for charging only. No shower or laundry facilities yet—these will be added later. We're a friendly family (41M, two kids, one cat, one small dog) seeking a tidy person with a self-sufficient caravan or tiny house. Ideal for someone who enjoys quiet living and can be self-contained.

NEW

LOOKING FOR LAND

Nelson, Tasman



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



NELSON

Looking for:

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

Amanda-Jane Fairey, a Kiwi-born global nomad, seeks a long-term (2–5 years) land lease within 30 minutes of Nelson, Tasman. After 30+ years abroad, she has returned home and now tutors students in literacy. She lives with her two senior rescue cats, who enjoy sunny outdoor spaces. She is open to sharing land with other tiny house owners.



Tiny House
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