

www.tinyrevolution.us

Basic Stats:

- What is(are) your name(s)? **Andrew and Crystal Odom**
- What do you do for a living? **I am a PR and Social Media Manager. Crystal is a SAHM**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? **Three; us and our 1-year old daughter**
- What part of the country do you live in? **Southeast region.**
- How many square feet is your house? **240 for the tiny house trailer but an additional 360 with the pods**
- When did you start your build? **May 2012**
- Is your house complete? **65%**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information? **www.tinyrevolution.us**

Background:

- Why did you decide to build? **Somewhere along the line the American Dream became defined by owning more stuff than your neighbor and having the best quality money could buy. Many times that meant relying on credit that was unsecured and came with lofty interest rates. But is that the way to go? Is that the new truth? Do we need a bigger house, a better car, or a large salary to find happiness? And just what is this elusive happiness anyway? Does it come about when we sacrifice our dreams for the pursuit of stuff?**

I am done believing it does. My family is done believing it does.

From 2009 until the present, my wife, Crystal, and I have worked hard at simplifying our lives. We have minimized the number of clothes we own, the types of food we eat, our dependency on cars and travel in general, the number of square feet we need to exist indoors, the amount of books we surround ourselves with, the number of CDs and DVDs we buy (largely for one-time use), and the overall debt we have amassed.

In this exchange we have maximized our quality of life, our love for each other, our concern for the world around us, our ideas of entertainment, our health (mentally and physically), and our general dispositions.

And so it is that we have decided to alter our own course in life and spend this season in our life building our own Tiny Home!

- What was your life like before your tiny house? Were you fairly active, have you always had 'projects' going on? Were you fairly sedentary and looking for a change? Did you tend to work too much? (This question is an effort at trying to figure out WHO gravitates

- to the tiny house lifestyle) We like to call ourselves neo-homesteaders. Since we got married we have gardened extensively, raised some animals, invested in alternative power, studied/researched sustainable living, etc. We have reduced ourselves to one car and begun walking and biking to get around and to increase exercise. We have taken control of our consumer debt and become active in not just life but in LIVING! I have always been a workaholic and so for me this season has been as much about mental and spiritual growth (sometimes being uncomfortable growth) as much as any other type. By moving towards a tiny house we have found a way to live minimally, live affordably, work less, and live more!
- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and get started? Both of us were Christian missionaries and collectively have lived in over 11 countries and 19 states. We have seen all sorts of living situations and have gained experience with need -vs- want. When the American housing market freaked us out we realized that we could take a more worldly approach investing in life and relationships and less in stuff and still come out more happy. The tiny house world appealed to that ideal completely!
 - What is/was your design inspiration? Our very first siting of a tiny house trailer was on Tumbleweed Tiny Homes. From there we just started googling. Practically though shotgun shacks and dogtrots of the American South really inspired us.

Technical:

- How do/did you find the time to work on your house with a job, kid(s), relationships, AND building a house? Did you do anything special to keep the balance? I wish I knew the answer. A lot had to do with just drive and determination. Because we started building in the summer we took advantage of early daylight (and no real neighbors to bother) and late sunsets. I also took some vacation time from my day job. Building our house to this point has been a true family affair allowing anyone/everyone who wanted to help, a chance to. So far my folks, an uncle, a buddy, a brother, etc. have pitched in. With that sort of awesome help and manpower along with a well-crafted building schedule and a spectacular budgeting person (Crystal, of course) we were able to maximize time without sacrificing the center of it all; a life well lived!
- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? Because we are paying cash-on-the-barrel we have had to stop twice now for a few weeks in order to keep up with our budget and keep a cashflow. Otherwise? No, not yet.

- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? **Begged, borrowed, and rented. I also own quite a few that I have had through the years because of other various projects.**
- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? **We had hoped to be done in 12 months or less once we started building. This does not include the two years of detailed planning and budgeting. Realistically though we will be happy to move in by May 1, 2013.**
- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule? **By no short miracle, yes.....well, okay, so sort of. Yeah, I reckon....no, not really!**
- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build? **Filling all of the exterior nail holes and then repainting and caulking.**
- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build? **Maintaining a corporate day job and work-related travel while trying to build.**
- Is your house on a trailer? If yes, how do you attach to the trailer? How do you move your tiny house? (Do you have a truck, do you hire it done?) **Yep. It will be moved to its "home" via Chevy 2500 King Cab (my mom's truck!)**
- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **Our tiny house trailer is part of a unique pod system that we affectionately call the "POD"om that consists of the trailer, two annexes, a storage closet/storm shelter, and a very small "home office."**
- Where did you get your plans? **Lots of nights of intense debate and discussion between spouses!**
- Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **Yes. My father is the unofficial contractor (as he is a licensed contractor.) We also had a professional roofing installer put on our metal roof system. And our kitchen cabinets are being custom built by my brother-in-law who is a craftsman by trade.**
- Are you insuring your house? With who? **Not at this point.**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship? **Tiny r(E)volution is - in fact - the house that sponsorships built. Following Macy Miller's lead I reached out to both local businesses and large corporations not just to get product sponsorship but to document their product and open the eyes of all tiny housers to new and effective materials, tools, ideas.**

Specifics:

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **Crystal insisted on a custom, gourmet, tiny kitchen. The cabinets are maple with Rockler, easy close, hinges and pulls. The countertop is Malaysian hardwood butcher block. There will be a 3-burner, propane gas, stove top. We will use a commercial Miele convection "toaster" oven. We have a full size, composite sink. Our coffee comes courtesy of a Kuerig machine and a Cuisipro frother. And our fridge is a 10.3 cubic inch Frigidaire.**
- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **Right now we are building to live on grid. It is more economical for us at this point. We will be able to be hard tied but are also putting in an RV style "pedestal" plug.**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **Yes...in Annex #2.**
- Where does your water come from? **Well.**
- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **Lo-Flo, two-cycle, water commode in Annex #2.**
- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **ClimateRight CR-7000 Max.**
- What are some of the space savings tricks you used? **We have built in niches in the "bedroom" which allows for a type of in wall storage. We have also built up our living room on a 7" platform, which has hatch doors to allow for storage underneath.**
- What do you have for insulation? **A mixture of R-13 and R-19 insulation by SafeTouch (non-toxic and made of recycled plastic and denim).**
- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **Beautiful, slightly rural, eastern North Carolina.**

Personal:

- How much will/did your tiny house cost? **We expect to top out (excluding annexes) at \$13,250.00.**
- What is/was the most expensive part of your house? **Metal roofing at \$2960.00**
- 'Best' injury story (worst injury)? **When we were framing up the house I shot my left index finger with a nail gun (10-penny nail)**
- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house? **It actually rolls.**
- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? **Seeing my wife smile every morning when the sun comes through our huge 4' x 4' windows at front and rear of the trailer.**
- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most? **People leaving us alone and not asking us why we would want to live in such a small space. While it is great being a tiny house advocate it can sometimes be**

overwhelming and sometimes we want to just be seen as “normal” in regards to our living conditions.

- What has been the scariest part about building your own house? **Lying awake at night wondering how that first hurricane will be.**
- If you could change one thing about your house what would it be? **2 more windows.**
- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? **Cash-on-the-barrel!**
- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas? **Both. Skeptical at first but they all seem to be on board now and some have even debated their own tiny house!**
- Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build? **Despite the word TINY there is nothing small about building a tiny house. It takes huge conviction, huge labor, huge attention to detail, and even a seemingly huge budget at times.**