

Peter and Abby – www.fatandcrunchy.com

Basic Stats:

- What is(are) your name(s)? **Peter and Abby Simon**
- What do you do for a living? **Peter currently works as an A/V Technician. Abby is an Artist.**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? What part of the country do you live in? **There are 3 of us with a 4th on the way. We currently live in Wisconsin, but are looking to move out West.**
- How many square feet is your house? **285 if you don't include the loft. 375 if you do.**
- When did you start your build? **March 2012**
- Is your house complete? **Nope**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information? **www.fatandcrunchy.com**

Background:

- Why did you decide to build? **Oh man, so many reasons. To simplify. To reduce debt. Free us from a single location. For the challenge. For the knowledge and skill building.**
- 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 tend to be dreamers... and always have projects in the works. I've wanted to build my own sustainable house for many years.**

- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and and get started? **I've been following Tiny House blogs for a number of years. We decided to give it a go because the time was right. Got a fair amount of inspiration from 16 year old Austin in the fair companies video.**
- What is/was your design inspiration? **Of course Tumbleweed houses are the most famously recognized house... and we got the tiny house book from them. But really we've used ideas from through out the whole community. Dan Louche was a big influence. Derek Diedricksen. Michael Janzen taught me how to use Google sketchup which was really helpful in the beginning.**

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? **We were lucky in the beginning because the frame of the house was put together by building trades students from the local technical college as part of their curriculum. But since May, Abby and I have taken over and it has been slow going. We basically work on it any time that we can.**
- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? **No problems yet... but we are staying under the radar I think.**
- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? **Bought and Borrowed**
- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? **I'm so bad at estimating. I thought we'd be done in August 2012. Now we are hoping December.**
- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule? **No real schedule.**
- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build? **The pine board takes a while.**

- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build? **Making sure I have plumbing right. Especially in a freezing climate.**
- 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?) **It is on a trailer. We have only moved it once since we started building it. We used a Ford F350 Diesel to move it.**
- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **no**
- Where did you get your plans? **Made them ourselves.**
- Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **sort of with the class that helped us.**
- Are you insuring your house? With who? **State Farm put a proposal together for us under a mobile home insurance plan**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship? **We haven't done anything beside the tech school helping us. We've tried to contact businesses, but no one wants to help.**

Specifics:

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **Propane RV stove**
- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **Yes Grid**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **Small Washer, no dryer**
- Where does your water come from? **Hose hook up**
- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **Loveable Loo type**
- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **Not settled on this, but either ceramic wall panels or propane heat**
- What are some of the space savings tricks you used? **Built-ins are a must! A loft. Storage in everything.**
- What do you have for insulation? **Fiber glass**

- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **Not sure.**

Personal:

- How much will/did your tiny house cost? **\$14,000**
- What is/was the most expensive part of your house? **The trailer for us.**
- ‘Best’ injury story (worst injury)? **Ha! I stepped on a nail two weeks ago. Then this past Sunday, I stepped on the same one again. Whoops. I should have cut it out the first time. Abby did saw it out after I stepped on it the second time.**
- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house? **I’m proud of the wiring. We’ll have a fairly hi-tech house. Also, the plumbing will be an accomplishment for me when I’m done.**
- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? **I think the freedom from debt and from location.**
- Is there anything you’ll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most? **At this point, I don’t know what I’ll miss.**
- What has been the scariest part about building your own house? **Making sure I’m doing things correctly and that it won’t crumble driving down the road**
- If you could change one thing about your house what would it be? **I wouldn’t use vinyl siding on the outside... maybe. I don’t like the look of it, but the light weight is a huge benefit.**
- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? **Combo of pay as you go and loan. We plan to pay off the debt after we move in and sell our “main” house.**
- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas? **Both... sort of extreme in both directions. It is interesting to hear people’s thoughts on such an endeavor.**

- Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build? **Nope**