

Basic Stats:

What are your names?

Travis & Dannilee Marttinen with our baby boy Holden

What do you do for a living?

Travis is going to school for Architectural Technology, and Dannilee is currently a stay-at-home mom with an Etsy shop ([BabyBearDesign](#))

How many people will be living in your tiny house? 3

What part of the country do you live in? Ontario, Canada

How many square feet is your house?

187 with porch, 175 without. Not including lofts.

When did you start your build? July 15, 2013

Is your house complete? No

Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information? Yes, on our blog [little house family](#).

Background:

Why did you decide to build?

For the experience, cheap living expenses with a mortgage free house, for Travis' portfolio, and to simplify our life

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?

Travis always has different ideas and woodworking projects going on and enjoys designing modern, affordable, practical, and efficient homes. He aspires to live as simply as possible. Dannilee's main project is taking care of Holden and working on new designs for her Etsy shop.

How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and get started?

Travis has focused on tiny houses for a long time and worked on Dannilee to get her to finally go along with the idea and has now finally succeeded.

What is your design inspiration?

Stealth Barn by Carl Turner Architects

Technical:

How do you find the time to work on your house with a job, kid, relationships, AND building a house? Did you do anything special to keep the balance?

Travis is in school and just works whenever he gets a free chance with the help of some younger siblings on occasion. Dannilee is mostly on the sidelines taking care of Holden while Travis works.

Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? No problems thus far. We are building our little house on a trailer therefore hoping this will help us to avoid most legal issues.

Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? Most of the tools belong to us; the remainder have been borrowed from Travis' father who works as a finishing carpenter.

How long are you expecting construction to take?

We need it livable by September 30, 2013 but hope to be fully completed within less than a year.

Have you been able to stay on schedule?

So far we have managed to move along at a quick speed and hope to keep this up!

What is the most time consuming portion of your build?

So far the angles of the roof as they are fairly complex. We are not finished yet though so we will see when we are done.

What is the most limiting factor for your build? Budget/Time

Is your house on a trailer? If yes, how do you attach to the trailer? How do you move your tiny house?

Our little house is attached to a trailer using ½" anchor bolts. The hitch is a standard 2-5/16" hitch. We don't own our own truck, but we have family who are willing to move us. If we ever run into a situation where they are unable to help we will rent a truck.

Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? No.

Where did you get your plans? Travis has been our design and build guy!

Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? No.

Are you insuring your house? No.

Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? No.

Specifics:

What sort of items do you have for cooking?

Breville Smart Convection Toaster Oven and a portable induction hot plate.

Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? Tied.

Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? No.

Where does your water come from? City water via hose for now.

What kind of toilet are you going to have? Bucket composting. What do you use for a heat source if anything? Electric.

What are some of the space savings tricks you used?

Getting rid of A LOT of stuff! Double sided sleeping loft.

What do you have for insulation?

6" XPS in walls, 6.5" XPS in roof, 2" XPS and 3.5" EPS in floor. All purchased off Kijiji.

Where are you planning to park your tiny house?

For the next year it will be parked on Travis' parents property. After that we may possibly be moving it to British Columbia.

Personal:

How much will/did your tiny house cost?

Approximately \$10,000-\$15,000. We are not completed yet.

What is the most expensive part of your house? Trailer so far.

'Best' injury story (worst injury)? Only splinters as of yet (knock on wood)

What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house? Framing.

What will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? Cozy and cheap.

Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most? Bathtub and crafting space for Dannilee, nothing for Travis, indoor playing

room for Holden.

What has been the scariest part about building your own house?

Budgeting and getting rid of so much stuff!

If you could change one thing about your house what would it be? Nothing 😊

Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house?

Initial construction cash on hand, pay as you go to finish the rest.

Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas?

We've seen a bit of both. Mostly supportive and curious.

Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build? We have strived to make it as modern, affordable, practical, efficient, and fun as possible and are very excited to see our final outcome!