

## Ryan – [ryanstinyhouse.com](http://ryanstinyhouse.com)

### *Basic Stats:*

- What is(are) your name(s)? **Ryan A. Harris**
- What do you do for a living? **Marketing Coach and Consultant to Heart-Centered Entrepreneurs**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? **Just me, with my son on occasion**
- What part of the country do you live in? **Boise, Idaho!!!!**
- How many square feet is your house? **200 + 100 more with lofts**
- When did you start your build? **Late April of 2014**
- Is your house complete? **No, in framing phase now**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information? **Yes at <http://ryanaharris.com>**

### *Background:*

- Why did you decide to build? **I've always wanted to live in a house that I built, because I love working with my hands and woodworking in general. I also want the ability to have to earn far less income, for a slower paced lifestyle.**
- 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)

**Answer: I am very ambitious and consider myself an entrepreneur, always launching something new. I always assumed I would eventually have a mansion. But then something shifted and I realized that isn't really what I**

- wanted. I wanted simplicity and to be closer to the land. To be unhurried, and more in touch with myself and my community – not isolated in a big house crammed with stuff.
- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and and get started? **I don't know how I first heard about it – probably a Facebook photo, but I was investigating domes, yurts, strawbale, and other alternative dwellings at the time, and the appeal was immediate. I bought a tiny house trailer within just a few weeks so I would be committed to building mine!**
  - What is/was your design inspiration? **Andrew and Gabriella Morrison's hOMe design was a huge part of it. In fact I bought their plans and mine is substantially like theirs, but with many many modifications. I didn't want a gabled roof, so I was looking for shed roof style designs, and theirs is great!**

*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 am building in my own yard – that helps. I am not in a relationship right now – that helps too. And I have scaled back my work to be more simple – I dropped some big projects that were taking up too much of my time. I also co-founded an Idaho tiny house Meetup group, and the people in it are helping me build, which is fantastic and very much appreciated!**
- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? **No problems yet since I am just building.**
- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? **I bought most of them at Harbor Freight, and will borrow things as needed.**

- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? **About 6 months – I want to finish before Winter 2014.**
- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule? **So far so good, but there is no official schedule :)**
- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build? **Its been mostly framing so far, but gathering materials like windows took a few weeks.**
- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build? **Budget. I only have enough cash on hand to do the exterior as of right now. The interior completion timing will totally depend on my cashflow.**
- 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?) **Yes it is, I own a Dodge Ram 1500 and towed the trailer from Florida to Idaho, but it may not be a strong enough truck to move the house once complete. If needed, I will rent a tow truck or borrow a bigger diesel truck.**
- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **Not yet. I have my rental house I live in while I am building. I would like eventually to have some kind of workshop/garage outbuilding so I can tinker. Like many men, I am very at home in a garage, with tools all around. I've lived without it, but don't want to any longer.**
- Where did you get your plans? **See above – Andrew and Gabriella**
- Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **Dan Miller for Plumbing – that's it so far!**
- Are you insuring your house? With who? **Hadn't considered it yet. I would like to.**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship? **No official sponsors, but I may go that route to help with some appliance type stuff.**

### *Specifics:*

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **Hot plate, microwave, and large toaster over only – not much of a cooker here. No range/oven**
- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **I will be, yes, with solar as a supplement**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **I will plumb for it but will try to go without. I don't mind going to Laundromats, and the little POD handwasher thing looks cool for doing undies and tshirts, etc.**
- Where does your water come from? **From God. But seriously, I hope to be connected to city sewer.**
- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **Considering the new kind that bags it up.**
- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **Will use a small wood burning stove.**
- What are some of the space savings tricks you used? **TBD. Under stair storage for sure.**
- What do you have for insulation? **Will use fiberglass batts in the walls, and I have 3" of foam in the floors.**
- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **Somewhere in the City of Boise or the surrounding vicinity. I am not worrying about that for now, it will work itself out. I just want to get it built!**

### **Personal:**

- How much will/did your tiny house cost? **20k is my estimate**
- What is/was the most expensive part of your house? **Interior paneling and cabinetry.**
- 'Best' injury story (worst injury)? **None yet except splinters and a mashed thumb, knock on wood.**

- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house? **Starting very quickly and building the tiny house community here in Boise.**
- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? **I will let you know!**
- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most? **Not having a garage!**
- What has been the scariest part about building your own house? **The fear that I will forget something really important and have to tear down part of it and redo it.**
- If you could change one thing about your house what would it be? **Nothing yet!**
- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? **Pay as I go.**
- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas? **Very supportive! No naysayers yet.**
- Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build? **Anyone can do it. Plan less, build more. Trust that it will all work out. Meet your neighbors. Don't be shy about asking for help. Focus on self-expression through the form of your house. :) Go for it!**