

Tracy and Don – blog.Homazooma.com

Basic Stats

- What is(are) your name(s)? **Tracy Thomas and Don Plenter**
- What do you do for a living? **Former investment banker, home builder, owners of various businesses, real estate and mortgage broker. Together we are now authors, and founders of homazooma.com (free personal financial software), tiny house builders.**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? **Two to five.**
- What part of the country do you live in? **Outside of Toronto, Ontario**
- How many square feet is your house? **238 s.f. including 2 lofts and with additional 28 s.f. deck, if you want to count that.**
- When did you start your build? **April 2013**
- Is your house complete? **Getting there, weather has been a factor**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information? **At blog.Homazooma.com, and youtube.com/myhomazooma, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UPsKbbfA8E> (our time lapse is here)**
- Our books at Amazon.com http://www.amazon.com/Don-Plenter/e/B00IP1SXL4/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_pop_1

Background:

- Why did you decide to build? **We needed a house and wanted to use it as a promotional vehicle for our financial website.**
- What was your life like before your tiny house? **Glued to my cell phone as a realtor...blech! LOL**
- Were you fairly active, have you always had 'projects' going on? **Yes – we are 'doers' always were entrepreneurial and curious types.**
- Were you fairly sedentary and looking for a change? **Nope.**
- Did you tend to work too much? (This question is an effort at trying to figure out WHO gravitates to the tiny house lifestyle) **Yes – I guess so.**
- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and get started? **Been following Jay Shaffer for several years.**

- What is/was your design inspiration? **Symmetry and balance, we created our own design to reflect these elements, though being a real estate broker, I'd been through many houses and wanted one that looked like a real house but smaller.**

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? **No balance, work work work. Just did it in every waking moment and filmed most of it. We have tons of footage in the can but not yet edited.**
- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? **Not yet.**
- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? **They were sponsored – see our book here http://www.amazon.com/Build-Your-House-Sponsored-Products-ebook/dp/B00J7CVHT0/ref=la_B00IP1SXL4_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1398882509&sr=1-2**
- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? **Finish this summer.**
- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule? **We didn't have a set schedule.**
- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build? **Hard to say yet, but making the scalloped shingles from scratch, would be in the running for number one!**
- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build? **Ourselves, and making ourselves work and push forward when we were already aching, tired and frustrated.**
- 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?) **We will have a truck.**
- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **No accessory dwellings though I could see that a shed might be necessary.**
- Where did you get your plans? **Created ourselves then put them for sale on Amazon for really cheap so others could benefit. http://www.amazon.com/Build-Plans-Your-Tiny-House-ebook/dp/B00IOZT60I/ref=la_B00IP1SXL4_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1398882509&sr=1-1**
- Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **Not yet – hubby was a builder. We'll need to do that once we get to electrical and maybe plumbing.**

- Are you insuring your house? With who? **Not sure.**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship? **We wrote a book on how we did it.**

Specifics:

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **Propane stove, sponsored.**
- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **Hope to be off.**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **Yes**
- Where does your water come from? **Local or tanks.**
- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **Not sure. RV with tank, perhaps.**
- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **Propane heater or maybe woodstove.**
- What are some of the space savings tricks you used? **Not there yet!**
- What do you have for insulation? **Spray foam.**
- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **In 35 cities later this summer! LOL**

Personal:

- How much will/did your tiny house cost? **Not sure yet.**
- What is/was the most expensive part of your house? **Not sure yet.**
- 'Best' injury story (worst injury)? **Not sure yet.**
- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house? **It will be getting it completed!**
- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? **Not sure yet.**
- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most? **Space.**
- What has been the scariest part about building your own house? **So far, being afraid that we won't finish it, get side tracked etc..**
- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? **We had a few very supportive investors for our company, homazooma.com**
- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas? **Some definitely skeptical.**

- Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build? About our build? **No, but generally, it's the best way to get on top of your finances and get a solid financial foothold.**