

10 Minutes for the Planet

The Tiny House Movement ©

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Accompagnement lexical et phonologique -

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Retrouvez la traduction de certains mots à droite du texte

Les syllabes accentuées sont en gras et soulignées*



Hello everyone and welcome to this week's **episode** of 10 Minutes for the Planet. Two weeks ago, we **discussed** eco-construction: the **modern** green marketing **trend** and the sometimes not very ecological **materials** and **methods involved**, **versus** natural construction **projects**, which are often local and **cooperative**.

Today we'll take a look into another trend in ecological housing: the **Tiny** House movement. Tiny houses are small or extra-small houses, **usually** between 10 and 40 square metres. The Tiny House movement **encompasses** an **architectural**, social and ecological movement, **emerging** in the U.S. in the **late** 1990s, **inspired** by Henry David **Thoreau** and Lloyd Kahn. The movement became more **popular** after the housing **crisis** following **hurricane Katrina** in 2005, as well as the **financial** crisis of 2007.

Tiny houses are also a **response** to **harsh** materials and financial conditions, **providing temporary shelters** after **disasters**, **transitional** housing for the **homeless**, as well as **access** to **property** for small **pensions**. **However**, for some, tiny houses are a chosen **lifestyle**. With the **development** of large **suburban areas**, houses have become much larger, and **therefore** cost more, **consuming** more of our **limited resources along the way**. For **enthusiasts**, tiny houses are a way to consume less, having less house but more home, less money but more time, less **luxuries** but more **comfort**.

Depending on local legislations, tiny houses have taken **different** forms. In France, the most popular form seems to be the tiny house on **wheels**. These houses that are **aesthetically similar** to **regular** houses, are simply built on a

trend (n.) tendance

tiny (adj.) tout petit, micro

to encompass (vb.)
comprendre, inclure

late (adj.) à la fin de

harsh (adj.) rude, dur,
hostile

shelter (n.) abri, refuge

pension (n.) retraite

suburban (adj.) de banlieue

therefore (adv.) donc, par
conséquent

along the way (exp.) au fil
du temps, en chemin

wheel (n.) roue

regular (adj.) ordinaire,
normal

trailer (n.) remorque

large **trailer**. There are no **official** size limits, however, in order to be able to ride on French roads with a heavy **vehicle license**, a trailer must be no larger than 2.5 metres and weigh 3.5 tons. Which means that French tiny houses on wheels are usually 2.5 metres large by 6 metres long, and 4 metres high, for an **average** of 15 square metres with a **sleeping loft**. They are usually made from wood and other **solid** materials but are **relatively** light, to stay under the 3.5-ton limit.

Tiny houses can be built **off-grid** or **connected** to city water and **electricity**. **Amateurs** and **experts** usually **estimate** the building cost of a tiny house between ten and sixty thousand **euros**. Ten thousand if you build it yourself, with mostly **recycled** materials, and sixty thousand, if you have it **designed** and built **entirely** by a **specialised company**. A popular option seems to be to buy an empty Tiny House for a few thousand euros and **decorate** the **interior** by yourself. There are now **a handful of** companies making Tiny Houses in France as the trend develops, with estimates of 500 French tiny houses on wheels with full time **inhabitants**, and **dozens** more joining the trend each month.

On the Tiny House France Facebook group, with 4,500 members, the main issues that are **raised** are which **insurance** to take for a house? Which materials are best? And which **municipalities** are tiny house friendly?

That's it for today but stay tuned for more on Tiny Houses in next week's episode of 10 Minutes for the Planet.

license (n.) permis

average (n.) moyenne

sleeping loft (n.) couchage en mezzanine

off-grid (exp.) hors-réseau

a handful of (exp.) une poignée de

to raise (vb.) soulever

*Aide à la prononciation

Les adjectifs terminés par le suffixe **-IAL** sont accentués sur la syllabe qui précède le suffixe :

financial, official, social