



## 10 Minutes for the Planet

### The Tiny House Community ©

by Valentine Rinner

Accompagnement lexical et phonologique - Noele Bouazouni ©

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. In a **previous** episode, we talked about the recent trend for tiny houses, and more **specifically**, tiny houses on wheels in France.

Tiny houses on wheels are **regularwood-structured** houses, **except** that they are built on top of a **trailer**. In France, tiny houses are **usually** 2.5 meters large by 6 meters long and 4 meters high, making for an **average** of 15 square meters, **including** a sleeping loft. These tiny houses also must be lighter than 3.5 tons.

Most tiny houses include a living/dining space with an open **kitchenette**, a bathroom with a shower and composting toilets, and a **bedroom** loft. However, some designs can also **incorporate** a child's bedroom, an office, a second loft, and a **terrace**. The idea when **designing** a tiny house is to **identify** the future inhabitant's exact needs and **eliminate** all those extras that aren't needed. That means that each tiny house is different and they're always entirely **adapted** to your needs. Some are built **off-grid**, while others can be **connected** to city water and electricity.

Because of the 3.5-ton weight **restriction**, the choice of **construction** material is central. Wood is a very popular option. Most tiny houses also have an ecological approach to their construction, often selecting recycled **materials**.

Because these houses are transportable, you don't need a **permit** to build them – all you are required to do is simply declare the house to local **authorities** and pay a **flat tax** of 150 Euros per year, as applicable to all other mobile housing. However, you will need an **authorisation** from your local municipality to park your tiny house for more than three months on **private property**.

It's easy to find **advice** within the tiny house community based on owners own **experiences** regarding which municipalities are **supportive** of such housing alternatives and which are **reluctant**.

**specifically** (adv.)  
précisément

**trailer** (n.) caravane

**usually** (adv.) en général,  
d'habitude

**average** (n.) moyenne

**to design** (vb.) concevoir,  
dessiner (un plan)

**off-grid** (adj.) hors réseau

**flat tax** (n.) impôt à taux  
unique

**advice** (n.) conseils

The community is also a rich source of **information** regarding **insurance** and which companies are open to new types of **accommodations** and which will refuse to consider **alternatives**. Believe it or not, it can get **tricky** to get your tiny house insured **properly** because the concept of full-time tiny house living is new and doesn't quite fit in existing **categories**, while still being at the **experimental** stage. However, every day tiny housers share new information on the different online sharing platforms. The most popular is the "Collectif Tiny House" **Facebook** group and the Tiny House France .org **website**. There are **plenty** of blogs out there where tiny housers share **insights** on their new lifestyle and are happy to share both their **successes** and failures. If you're **interested**, do have a look online to find if tiny housers are hiding near where you live. There are also a few events **hosted annually** by different companies and collectives that include visits and **workshops**. And every year there are more of these **popular events**.

If you haven't heard of tiny houses till now, wait and see as the trend **develops**. We're not there yet in France but in the United States, there are even two **reality** shows about tiny houses on wheels. We may soon **catch up**!

Now have a good day! And stay tuned for next week's episode of 10 Minutes for the Planet.

**reluctant** (adj.) réticent

**tricky** (adj.) difficile, compliqué/délicat

**plenty** (n.) beaucoup

**insight** (n.) connaissance

**to host** (vb.) recevoir, accueillir

**workshop** (n.) atelier

**catch up** (phrasal vb.) rattraper

**\*Aide à la prononciation**

Pour les mots qui finissent avec une consonne ou un « y », l'accent tonique est souvent sur la première syllabe.

**rarity, optimal, gradient, generous**