



# A “Tiny” Piece of Heaven

Twenty years ago, Chris March became a builder, like many people in his family before him. But around 2005, he began receiving an education in how to build a tiny house without even realising it.

Vendors began asking him to build timber chalets for vendors – the kind you see at music festivals and fun fairs. Their requests could be fairly quirky, since they wanted their huts to reflect their business theme. But he found he had a unique talent for listening to what people wanted and then being able to create it from just a verbal conversation or a rough sketch. This placed him in high demand for building the huts, which in many ways were very similar in construction to tiny houses.

“One of the biggest challenges I faced early on, was in finding ways to make the buildings mobile,” Chris explains. They had to be moved quickly and frequently, due to the

rigorous schedule of the vendors during show season, and they had to stand up to all the bumps and twists the roadways delivered.

He built the trailers himself. And he figured out ways to secure doors and interior space so that it didn’t get damaged during transit.

This unique skillset served as the perfect training ground for building tiny houses. It was a natural transition to creating the small living spaces he has crafted for dozens of people. Though the tiny houses look like idyllic little cottages from the outside, they feel much larger inside! The high ceilings add lots of interior space and provides a separate area for a loft space for sleeping. The bespoke houses can literally be any style or colour that people want, which gives a lot of room for individual design choices.

Although the homes he builds can be static, most people prefer to be able to take their home with them. But mobile doesn’t equate to temporary. These homes are carefully constructed and should be able to last at least 40 to 50 years according to Chris.

With more mobility in the job market, a home which can follow you to your new location is ideal. Also, many people are working from home, which means they can work from just about anywhere.

Another important subject for people considering a simpler, more efficient life, is sustainable energy. Many of the homes Chris has built are completely off-grid, with solar energy panels and wood-burning heat. Although many people are interested in solar shingles, Chris advises that the solar panels outperform the shingles, several times over. The cost of the shingles is also fairly prohibitive if you’re looking for an economical option.

The big question is: “Does Chris live in a tiny house himself?” -He has lived in a tiny house for a couple of weeks at a time, but in the near future when he moves to his new workshop location, he will be a full time, tiny house dweller. The new location will be more convenient with his workshop, the tiny house gallery, and offices all in one place – and Chris’ new home, although home may be somewhat of a relative term. Chris often finds himself traveling to locations all over Europe to construct the tiny houses onsite.



He’s built them in Norway, Belgium, Ireland and other countries.

Though it can be a lot of work, his favourite part is the delivery. “I love it when they find their ideal spot and get it all set up, and hand them their keys. It’s a life-changing moment for people to have their own home”.

To learn more about the tiny houses which Chris builds, visit [www.tinyecohomesuk.com](http://www.tinyecohomesuk.com)

