

5 Clever Design Features for Tiny Homes



Tiny homes represent an exciting lifestyle change for many different types of people.

For some, a tiny home is the ideal solution whilst they save up for a house deposit. For other people who have acres of unused property in a scenic area, a tiny house may represent an opportunity to enter the Airbnb market.

Whatever the case may be, if you're interested in purchasing and/or living in a tiny home, there are many things to consider in terms of designing one. For example, the layout of a home which is going to be used for permanent living will need to be different compared to a home which will be mainly used for guest accommodation. Additionally, the location of a tiny home with impact on its design, as climate needs to be taken into consideration.

However a tiny home is going to be used, the design needs to be carefully thought out to ensure the best use of space as well as a comfortable living experience.

In this guide, we take a look at 5 clever design features that you may want to consider when you're planning the purchase of a tiny home.



Savvy storage

As many tiny home dwellers will attest to: storage is everything.

Without adequate storage, life in a tiny home can feel frustrating if you are constantly unable to quickly and easily find items that you need to use on a daily basis such as clothes, shoes, toiletries and kitchen utensils.

What you want to avoid at all costs is having odds and ends everywhere. Otherwise, a tiny home will feel and look cluttered. Instead, you want plenty of open room to be able to move around in so you feel like you can breathe.

Luckily, there are plenty of clever storage ideas out there that tiny home designers are incorporating into their designs. Here's just a few for you to keep in mind when you're looking around at different tiny home models:

- > Tiered roll out drawers in the wall cabinetry, including along the floor and under staircases.
- > Beds and couches with built-in drawers underneath. Beds can also be designed to fold away when not in use to free up valuable floor space.
- > Ceiling cavities with drop down cabinets.
- > Storage trunks, which also double as bench seats, that can be slid away into cavities.
- > Entire walls which double as floor to ceiling cabinets.
- > Modular storage cubes which can be pushed together to create seating.
- > A recessed shaving cabinet in the bathroom.
- > Shelves which can be used top and bottom. This is done by installing hooks on the underside of the shelf which can be used to hang items like coffee cups or cooking utensils.
- > Hinged storage compartments in the floorboards.

PRO TIP: As mentioned above, having sufficient storage is the key to making a tiny home a comfortable and enjoyable place to live in or stay as a guest. Therefore, it absolutely pays to invest in the highest quality cabinetry possible.

High quality cabinetry comes with a higher price tag, but in a tiny home, it's something that you simply can't skimp on. Just like with a caravan or a boat, cabinets in tiny homes need to stand the test of time, be easy to operate and also won't fling open during transit.

Let there be (natural) light

Windows placed in the right position, as well as tall ceilings, will always give the impression that a space is larger than what it actually is. When natural light flows in, a tiny home will instantly feel and look much larger.

There are lots of ways you can increase the amount of natural light that comes into a tiny home. For example, dormer windows (windows which protrude out from a sloping roof) not only look great, but they provide excellent natural light and ventilation. They act a little bit like a skylight. This is especially true for tiny homes with loft bedrooms. Not only that, but their vertical profile creates additional head room, which is always a bonus in a tiny home.

Another way to encourage additional natural light is to install a bay window. Just like with a dormer window, a bay window projects outside the wall of a tiny home, creating extra space and plenty of opportunity for sunlight to flood through. Pair a bay window with a cushioned bench seat and you've got yourself a comfortable reading nook.



Intelligent insulation

Possibly the most important aspect to achieving effective climate control in a tiny home is insulation.

While you can of course use an air conditioner or a heater in a tiny home, this can be avoided as much as possible with proper insulation. Insulation will also help to keep your energy costs to a minimum. After all, a major part of tiny home living is reducing energy costs and embracing a more eco-friendly lifestyle.

Tiny homes should have insulation not only in the walls and ceiling, but also in the floors. This will go a long way in keeping you comfortable throughout the changing seasons, especially in colder climates.

The trick with tiny house insulation is finding the right mix between R-value (the measure of the insulation batt's resistance to heat flow) and thickness. You want something that's going to keep your internal climate stable without taking up too much precious space. Additional space can be added between the walls of a tiny home and the cladding to allow for as much insulation as possible.

Heat naturally rises, so the thickest insulation should be in the ceiling, with the walls next thickest and the floor the thinnest. An experienced tiny home designer will be able to guide you as to how much and what type of insulation will be best suited to your needs, depending on what climate you live in.

In warmer climates, you can make a tiny home cooler by opting to have as many windows as possible with louvres, casements or bi-folds. This will dramatically increase airflow and help to reduce how often you reach for the air conditioner remote.



Blending in

If you'd like to place a tiny home on your existing property, you should consider ensuring that the exterior design of the tiny home "blends in" with the colours and overall design style of your main house.

For example, if your home is painted in mainly neutral colours, you want to avoid having a tiny home that's brightly coloured as it will probably stick out like a sore thumb and be a bit hard on the eyes.

But it's not just paint colours that you should focus on. Wherever possible, try to match the pitch of the roof on your tiny home with that of the main house as well as the window styles.

By achieving a cohesive look between tiny home and main house, the tiny home will look more like it "belongs" as part of the whole package of your property. In the long run, this will help with resale value.

Decking on demand

A well designed outdoor space acts as an important living area for tiny home dwellers.

Tiny house patios and decks can function as entertaining spaces, a spot to grow potted plants as well as an exercise area.

This usually comes as a surprise to most people looking at purchasing a tiny home, however it is actually completely possible to attach a fold out deck to a tiny house which can be assembled and disassembled as needed.

If your tiny home plans involve staying in one place for a long time or even permanently, then you'd probably be best off with a permanent patio or deck.

However, if you'd like to have the freedom to move around a bit, then you can opt for a deck with folds back up as part of the exterior when not in use. Such decks are constructed using heavy-duty hinges and a locking system to ensure everything stays upright and secure during transit.

As you can imagine, having this flexibility with your decking opens up lots of possibilities as to how you use your tiny home.





Ready to go tiny?

If you'd like to explore the benefits of designing a tiny home, contact Alphaline Tiny Homes today to request your no obligation consultation.

We can custom design a tiny home for you from scratch or you can take one of our existing designs and we'll modify it to suit your wants and needs.

We also offer "DIY" flat pack tiny homes which can be delivered anywhere in Australia for you to assemble yourself.

All of our homes are designed with luxury and livability in mind. So get in touch with us, we'd love to show you all the possibilities the tiny home movement has to offer.

Simply [click here to contact us](#) or call 1300 584 663.