

# COUNTRY LIVING



D I G E S T

## CONTENTS

<u>1. Log Home Kit Prices - 3 Tips</u> .....	2
<u>2. Log Home Building - Choosing Your Logs</u> .....	4
<u>3. Off Grid Living Anyone Can Live With</u> .....	6
<u>4. Three Products With Great Woodworking Plans</u> .....	8
<u>5. Urban Homesteading - What Is It?</u> .....	10
<u>6. DIY Electronics Repair</u> .....	11
<u>7. The Tiny House Movement and Merits of Downsizing</u> .....	13
<u>8. Curtain Fabric Inspired By Country Living</u> .....	15
<u>9. Cooking Classes</u> .....	17
<u>10. The Various Kinds Of Free Outdoor Cooking Recipes</u> .....	18
<u>11. Wood Bench From The River</u> .....	20
<u>12. Fabulous Wood Furniture</u> .....	21
<u>13. Handcrafted Log Lounger</u> .....	22
<u>14. DIY Tree Stump Side Tables</u> .....	23
<u>15. Zombie-Proof Log Cabin</u> .....	24
<u>16. Log Cabins</u> .....	25
<u>17. Redneck Log House</u> .....	26
<u>18. This Mobile Home Is on the Market for \$1.2 Million</u> .....	27
<u>19. Nine Summer Cottages We Long to Escape to</u> .....	28
<u>20. Small is Beautiful Tiny House Documentary Preview</u> .....	29

## **1. LOG HOME KIT PRICES - 3 TIPS**

Log home kit prices for a variety of kits can easily be found online. Generally, to buy log home kits will be cheaper than to build a 'handcrafted' log home where the logs will be shaped one at a time using special hand tools. However, before you buy log home kits, be sure you understand three main ways you can control the log home kit prices and the final built cost. One of your goals should be to arrive at a budgeted amount that includes everything -- log home kit costs, the land and site work costs -- and to finish your project at or below that budgeted amount.



1. Log Home Kit Size - whether you're estimating your log home kit prices by number of rooms or by square foot, in general, larger log homes cost more to build. And remember, when you buy log home kits, a larger log home will also cost more to furnish, to heat and cool, to maintain and to clean. If property taxes are an issue, the amount to pay each year may be related to the completed size of your log home. If you want to reduce the cost, reducing the square footage of your log home is one of the main options you will have.

2. Log Home Kit Special Factors - to know in advance how much your log home will cost when you buy log home kits, you and your builder need to accurately estimate special conditions that your project has that will add to the final cost. For example, is your site difficult to access by tractor and trailer that will deliver your log home kit? Can a crane that will be used to erect your log home kit easily reach the site? Are utilities accessible to your property or will you need to dig a well, install a septic tank and bring electricity to your site from elsewhere?

These are examples of log home kit prices and special factors that can add labor and/or equipment costs. Work hard to define and accurately estimate any and all special situations that you'll encounter when you buy log home kits. You'll want to be building your new log home without any surprises.

3. Log Home Kit Design - the more complicated the design of your log home, the more it will cost to build. Cathedral ceilings are beautiful but more expensive to build. Dormers on roofs, lots of windows, hips and valleys and additional wall corners are examples of log home designs that cost more to build than a four-walled rectangular log home with a simple roof.

Building with a larger single-story log home kit will cost more than the same square footage built as a two-story log home. The reason is that 'building outward' or horizontally requires additional below-ground excavation as well as additional roof.

And the heating/cooling expense will be higher for a single-story log home than for a two-story structure of the same square footage.

As you go about deciding which log home kit prices and design you want, pay attention to the concepts described above if controlling costs when you buy log home kits is a concern. As you may know, it's not only about the kit and construction cost, it's also about maintenance cost year after year. Simpler designs for the roof will be less costly to build and to maintain.

Enjoy the process of creating the log home that is just what you want and at the price you expected. Making it happen can take a lot of effort, but it's your personal involvement and persistence that will help ensure that the finished project is a log home that you'll enjoy for many years to come.

## **2. LOG HOME BUILDING - CHOOSING YOUR LOGS**

Dreaming of building a log home? One of the first considerations is whether you'll build with milled, hand-hewn, or scribed logs.

### **Milled Logs**

In modern day, most log home builders and kit companies use the milled variety. Advantages to using this type are fast delivery per order, near precision in joinery, and reduced overall costs.



Trees that have been milled have passed through a machine making all logs uniform in shape and diameter. Shapes vary. Dependent on your local mill or log home company, a milled log could be square, rectangular, round, or 'D' shape.

Milled logs are generally shorter in length. They are therefore easier to work with (with just a few people) and easier to stack when building.

Logs can be milled from a wide variety of tree species - cedar and pine being two of the most common. They are sometimes kiln-dried to create ideal moisture contents.

### **Hand Hewn Logs for Building**

A hand hewn or hand crafted log is precisely what the name implies. Hand hewn packages come with peeled and cut logs, made by hand by craftsmen of the trade. These logs are often more expensive, slower to delivery time, but are used to recreate a look and feel of a pioneer or vintage home.

There are as many ways to peel and prepare a log as there are craftsmen and manufacturers. Logs left mostly round, then stacked upon each other further require chinking. Chinking is the process of filling in the 'cracks' between logs - a time intensive process that requires regular upkeep over the years.

### **Scribed Logs - Authenticity in A Log Home Build**

A final method of building this type of home is to use scribed logs. These logs are also hand crafted but do not require the chinking step in building. To 'scribe' a log is to take a scribe tool and trace the space where the two logs come in contact with each other once stacked. That center area is then removed from with a saw.

Hand hewn and scribed logs are delivered and used at a tree's natural height/length. They may take longer to deliver and are certainly more expensive. Positive aspects of these logs are that they build more authentic looking period homes.

### **Personal Favorites - The Logs We Build With**

In our family home we chose 6 x 10 rectangular, milled logs.

We made decisions based on available time, money, and skill required to build the log home. We were also adamant that the logs we used were locally grown. We also only had a few months to get our house built and needed to stay within a strict budget.

### **Final Consideration of All Logs: Moisture Content**

No matter what type of log you choose to build with you will want to consider the moisture content of the logs. This is a point not to be missed as it may save you thousands of dollars of repair and restoration over the life of your home.

Moisture content and shrinkage is a serious consideration. Green, uncured trees are often well over 19% moisture. Optimum moisture content is 15% - 18%. Treating logs before using in building projects usually involves a kiln-dry or air-dry.

If you have selected hand crafted or hewn logs, ensure you are being supplied with either air-dry or standing-dead materials. Typical reasons for standing-dead trees are fire or insects - neither of which adversely affect the final outcome of your log home. A good log supplier will ensure that the inner moisture content and the structural integrity of a log is construction grade.

Air-dried have been cut and allowed to dry out to 15-19% before being sold.

Even scribed logs will shrink and bare large gaps in your walls and around your windows and doors. Chinking will be your only option should this happen.

### **3. OFF GRID LIVING ANYONE CAN LIVE WITH**

Many people today are realizing the benefit of off grid living. It's not something that's reserved for paranoids rather it's a viable option for those who want to enjoy the amenities of modern day living, but don't want to pay the cost.

First, let's define what I mean by "off grid living." Being off the grid means exactly what it implies. You no longer have to deal with electric companies so there are no more electric bills. Basically, you are disconnected from the utilities grid, and are self sufficient.



By being off the grid, you will save hundreds, possibly even thousands of dollars per year, and it is also environmentally friendly. It's an option available to almost any homeowner, yet most don't even realize it.

The basic principles of off grid living can be applied to almost any home in the world, and it doesn't matter at what level they're currently tied to the grid. There are many options to choose from ranging from solar panels and windmills. It doesn't have to be expensive because as the technologies improve, costs go down.

Are you a DYI (do-it-yourselfer)? If you are, then you can make some deep inroads into off grid living with the many kits, resources and manuals available to you. The rate that fossil fuels are being spent is increasing along with the price. Energy prices are skyrocketing, and we're all feeling the pinch. As energy demands increase globally, anyone living off grid can rest easy with the knowledge that their own energy costs are decreasing.

However powerful your desire to live off the grid may be, perhaps you're experiencing some doubt or consternation. It's a scary proposition to those who can't live without modern day conveniences because they think they'll have to give everything up.

The desire to part of the off grid living community doesn't imply giving up everything you think you need. It just means getting smarter about what you do have.

Is it possible to live completely off the grid? In short, yes it is, but you don't have to take the entire plunge. On the contrary--off grid living does not imply giving up your creature electronic comforts. It's about learning to moderate your use of electricity, and use alternatives wherever possible. It's about turning off the lights when not in use. It's

about learning to unplug any machines or appliances when they're not in use. It's the simple things that make a huge difference.

If you are interested in off grid living, but aren't quite convinced and need more information, including success stories, then you need to do your homework. Fortunately, in today's information age there is a ton of information out there to help you. But, how do you sort it all out and filter out the nut jobs from the legitimate off grid living opportunities?

Off grid living is obtainable for anyone and you too can enjoy life living off the grid no matter where your home is. But, you need legitimate off grid living information.

## **4. THREE PRODUCTS WITH GREAT WOODWORKING PLANS**

There are lots of different products with great woodworking plans on the Internet today and it can be really hard to determine which product will provide you with what you need in order to achieve your woodworking goals. This article covers the fundamentals of several different woodworking products and what they offer their users. I am going to start off with what I have found to be the best woodworking product and then review what I have found to be the second and third best woodworking blueprint products.

### **Teds Woodworking Plans**

Teds Woodworking Plans is the first product that I am going to review and this product is a collection of great wooden plans. It's actually one of the best collections of woodworking plans that you can buy today! These wooden plans consist of more than 16,000 blueprints and include over 100 different categories of plan types. These categories include but are not limited to: bird house woodworking plans, furniture woodworking plans, and garden woodworking plans.

In addition to the various categories that Teds Woodworking Plans provides its customers, it also provides its customers with four great bonuses. The coolest of these bonuses is another software program that is called the **DWG or CAD software**. This software program allows users to analyze the woodworking blueprints in more detail. You can even edit or create your own wooden plans with this software program. The great options that the DWG or CAD software offers its users is one of the reasons that Teds Woodworking is the best set of wooden plans for customers to buy. This product also comes with three other bonuses: premium woodworking videos, how to start a business woodworking guide, and the complete woodworking carpentry guide. These additional bonuses are great tools to help customers learn more about woodworking and how to get involved in the industry if woodworking is something you are really passionate about.

### **My Shed Plans Elite**

My Shed Plans Elite is another product with great woodworking plans. Ryan Henderson created this product and he has over 20 years of woodworking experience in building wooden sheds. Throughout his career, he faced many of the same dilemmas that the creator of Teds Woodworking encountered, mainly, poorly written and understandable wooden plans. The My Shed Plans Elite product contains over 12,000 different wooden plans and blueprints. There are a lot of shed plans in this product in addition to hundreds of other plans in various categories.

My Shed Plans Elite also contains several bonuses as well. These bonuses are called: project sets and plans with 12,000 designs, detailed plans and how-to guides, more than 12,500 woodworking blueprints and projects, and a book with lots of tips, tricks, and secrets that professional woodworkers use. These bonuses provide you with more

detailed information in regards to the woodworking, which will allow you to breeze through your woodworking projects. A couple of other great features that this woodworking product provides its users are a money-back guarantee and a couple customer support options.

Overall, this product is a great set of wooden plans to help you achieve any of your woodworking projects.

### **Woodworking 4 Home**

The last product that I am going to review is called Woodworking 4 Home. This product is a fairly new product and that's the reason I have this product listed as the third best woodworking blueprints product. As this product continues to impress me, I will most likely move this product up the ranking list. This product contains over 14,000 woodworking plans and projects. These plans are categorized into over 100 different categories that include anything that you would want to build through woodworking.

The product developer for Woodworking 4 Home has designed this product so that it is very easy to navigate through. The wooden plans are very easy to follow and set up in a step-by-step format for users. These plans are also great for intermediate and advanced woodworking users as well. If you decide to purchase this product then you will be able to use the product for 60 days under their money back guarantee. In addition, you can contact customer support if you have any questions in regards to the product.

### **Quick Review:**

In conclusion, these are three products with great woodworking plans and my number one pick is Teds Woodworking Plans. I choose Teds Woodworking for a variety of reasons, mainly, the large number of wooden plans and for the additional bonuses provided in the software package. I hope this review has been helpful and that it leads you to find a woodworking product with great woodworking plans.

## **5. URBAN HOMESTEADING - WHAT IS IT?**

Urban homesteading today is a new spin on an old idea. In 1862 President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Homestead Act, which basically gave an opportunity to regular folks to stake out a claim on a piece of land, at least 160 acres. One of the criteria was that they were to improve the land, which would often mean building a home and working the land. The work done on the land typically gave the new land owner the ability to be self sufficient, in addition to providing products or services for market.



Over the course of 126 years, 1.6 million homesteads were granted. While urban homesteading today does not allow for the receipt of free land, it does follow the tenants of developing the land toward a less dependent life. There are still rural homesteaders that have the ability to develop, or already have developed a completely self sufficient lifestyle. They may or may not "live off the grid", but would have the ability to do so should something cause them to need to, such as the power going out during a storm and remaining off for several days.

While the ability to be completely self sufficient still tends to elude the urban dweller, due to the general inability to provide for their own water and sewer, there are many things the urban and suburban population can do for themselves that will both reduce their dependence on others as well as impact the world around them. These are the things that will be the focus of this blog. Saving the environment, although reducing our impact on the world may be a side effect, is not the goal here. The goal is live a debt free life which is less dependent on others. To return to some things of a simpler time, but mix them with some things of today, in an effort to ultimately give us more freedom and a better life.

Urban homesteading today will take us into the permaculture garden. It's about how to find a garden composter solution, how to grow fruit, how to grow vegetables, and how to grow herbs. What place keeping chickens has in a permaculture garden, what to do about rain water collection, and what long term food storage options, such as canning food, drying food, and freezing food, can be utilized once your raised vegetable garden is producing.

Urban homesteaders explore the use of solar power electricity and wind power electricity, what outdoor cooking equipment to use for different kinds of cooking, and what indoor cooking equipment can be used without electricity. The goal for the urban homesteader is to become as self sufficient as possible while still enjoying life in the city.

## **6. DIY ELECTRONICS REPAIR**

Those who prefer to do DIY repair of electronic appliances like plasma and LCD televisions, computers, monitors and gaming consoles believe that it will cost less compared to hiring professionals to do the work. Yes, indeed, for some it can be cheaper to go the DIY way. However, for those who do not know what they are doing and goes into it haphazardly, it may cost much more and what's worse is it may even lead to disastrous results. Therefore, if you insist on going for DIY repairs of electronic appliances inside your home, you should take into consideration the following four factors: a thorough and detailed research on the object you wish to repair, some good contingency planning, allocation of enough time and lastly, the appropriate tools needed for the repair.



**RESEARCH.** A thorough research inquiry should be done to obtain relevant information that will help make you project as smooth as possible. This step is essential especially if you have no previous experience on the particular DIY project you are about to do. With research, you will learn things that will be of use to you for current and future projects. Get references like books and e-books. Find a website that gives out information relevant to your DIY repair project.

**PLANNING & SAFETY.** Basically, this pertains to preparation for any eventualities. Electronics repair entails some health risks so you should consider this aspect and plan things accordingly. When you are setting things up for your DIY repair, you should consider all the bases and make contingency plans. Being careless could mean future headaches and worse, you could end up physically hurting yourself and, hence, spending more.

**TIME.** This is also a very important aspect of any DIY repair undertaking. You don't want to leave electronic repair jobs hanging in the air and unfinished with all that equipment gathering dust on your work table because you ran out of time to finish them, do you? Make plans in advance for how you will schedule your work and stick to the plan like glue. If the job requires a lot of time, you can break the whole project in phases and accomplish each of them one at a time.

**APPROPRIATE TOOLS.** This aspect should also be considered with utmost attention as this will also spell success or failure for your DIY repair project. If you have the appropriate tools then it's all good. However, if you don't. You should consider the cost of buying them as opposed to just hiring someone who has all the tools to do it for you. You could buy, rent or borrow tools if you can but all the tools you will require have to

be available to you when you start working. Missing or lost tools can mean a lot of lost time for your repair work. Even in DIY electronics repair, time is money.

Performing a DIY repair project should not be considered as easy as just whipping out some tools and just starting working; most especially if you are doing it to save money. Rushing into repair jobs that you have no previous experience will only cost you more. Not just in money but perhaps even in limb. Plan things well and you will save a lot of time and money doing your DIY electronics repair.

## **7. THE TINY HOUSE MOVEMENT AND MERITS OF DOWNSIZING**

People are talking about the tiny house movement. What is it? Is it small houses that are being moved down the street to tiny lots? Is it a political movement? This movement is all about a segment of society that states that people are downsizing the space or spaces that they live in.

If you haven't heard of it, the tiny house movement is a growing trend and not just a fad. It's been featured on network television all over the world. What makes the tiny movement so big, and what determines what a small home is? The average house in America is just less than 3,000 square feet in size. Tiny houses are built with the focus on smaller simplified living so they average around 400 to 500 square feet at the most. Some small houses are very tiny, at around 65 square feet.



### **But Why the Movement toward Downsizing Houses?**

This movement is all about efficiency, saving natural resources, and saving the environment. People who have been concerned about these factors in society have been very concerned at the amount of natural resources (and accompanying waste) that's generated every time a standard size home is built.

And if you include all the resources that go into maintaining older standard size houses, a good argument can be made that the old adage of "Bigger is better" is not better anymore. For example: If a tiny home of about 200 square feet is built in remote areas away from sprawling cities, the house leaves virtually no impact or carbon footprint on the natural environment around it. And in many areas small houses are using solar panels for their energy source.

### **Smaller Homes Are Economically Friendly Too**

When you consider many automobiles today cost over \$50,000, it's easy to see the economic value in getting involved in the tiny house movement. Small homes or houses can cost as little as \$37,000 if you buy a pre-fabricated or pre-built one. If you build it yourself you'll save a lot more.

A lot of people think that buying a tiny home means living in a cardboard box or something like that. Not so. Because the cost of a tiny house is so low, builders can focus on higher quality building materials that are more energy-efficient and last longer than materials used in traditional home building.

The small house movement is also providing an affordable means of home ownership to people whose homes were destroyed during hurricanes in the south-eastern U.S. in the past ten years. Some people whose houses were completely demolished could not afford to rebuild, or they did not have sufficient insurance coverage to rebuild the home they had before. So tiny homes provide a comfortable and safe life for them.

### Downsizing to Simple Housing Is the Answer for Some

There are some people who have not been affected by natural disasters or financial meltdowns. They simply want to join the movement because for a lot of people in today's hectic society, simplicity is king. Many people in society during the last few decades have found themselves working long work weeks and getting little time off, only to spend that time constantly maintaining a large house that they hardly ever spent any time in. Although small homes will always be just that, the tiny house movement is growing into something big.

## **8. CURTAIN FABRIC INSPIRED BY COUNTRY LIVING**

**W**hen I think of a country home, I think of wooden floors, Belfast sinks, wood burners, chickens, ginghams, florals, wellington boots, AGAs, and the whole family chatting in a gorgeous country kitchen. I have a great love for the countryside and country interiors. So here are some top tips for creating the perfect interiors in your countryside home.

### **Kitchen**

The hub of a country home is the kitchen. A wooden table at the centre with gingham seat pads, fresh fruit and vegetables in baskets and a fun country print decorating the window. For homes with a small window, either a little blind in a contemporary fabric or a simple short curtain in a relaxed country floral fabric look brilliant. If you're lucky enough to have French doors leading out onto a garden or patio, then floor length curtains hung on a wooden pole in a country check really make a wonderful feature. Pick out accent colours in your chosen fabric and use for chunky mugs, vintage style vases and country tea towels.



### **Living Room**

Plaid fabrics are perfect for a cosy country living room. Use as an upholstery fabric on a statement chair or sofa and complement with fun country cushions. Whether you have an open fire or a wood burner, accessorising with a wool throw and a natural wood coffee table is a must for getting that real country feel. For window treatments, a linen striped curtain fabric looks fantastic when hung on a chunky pole. If stripes aren't your thing then stick with the linen look but keep it plain. Country florals also look beautiful as a living room curtain fabric.

### **Bathroom**

Country bathrooms are traditionally feminine and floral, with a neat roman blind in a floral curtain fabric and sometimes even matching floral wallpaper. If this style isn't for you, then simplify the scheme with wooden floorboards, a roll top bath, and an old ladder painted and given a new life as a towel rack. Either plain fabrics with a rustic texture to them, or checked fabrics, look great when used on a roman blind. Accessorise with matching towels and a plant.

### **Bedroom**

Bedrooms in country homes can become dated fairly quickly, with frilly floral valances and extravagant window treatments. For a contemporary bedroom that suits a country home, keep bed linen plain and simple, and bring in colour and interest by using the windows as a focal point. Layering works great in bedrooms, so pile floral throws and country cushions on the bed. A light floral curtain fabric does look beautiful if you want to create a feminine bedroom. If this doesn't work, then a pastel spotted fabric on a roman blind brightens up a children's bedroom, whilst a relaxing striped fabric really shows off the master bedroom. If you have an en-suite attached to the master bedroom, then try and carry the colours through in some way, either with the accessories, a painted feature wall, or even a bath which has been painted with a complementary eggshell paint.

## **9. COOKING CLASSES**

No matter whether you are an expert or not, when it comes for cooking there should be a cooking class located in your locality so that we can improve our cooking skills more and more. Amazingly many people are utilizing the opportunity that they get as far as cooking classes are concerned. So it's always good to join any classes taken on the topic of cooking.

Many institutions have come forward to conduct the cooking classes during night or weekends and the rates are normal. These classes are deals with the basics that teaches the women the basics of cooking that can help to prepare a healthy food for their food for their families. If you are interested in joining these classes then you must refer the local library for the possible chances for these classes in your area. Even though if they do not give all the information they will guide us in the right direction. So never miss any class relating to cooking.

When we wish to classes to with our children then we need to seek the help of the library for some initial ideas. Many government cooking classes that conduct some courses for parents with their parents with their children. This is a great chance for the parents to mingle with their children and learn the course to gather and prepare a nice dish together. Things will be surprising when they are learned from their children and from the classes that you attend.

People who are in need of some experience in cooking they should attend some cooking classes in order to gain experience and reach the goal that they dared to dream. The chances of learning Thai cooking are more in cities than small towns though they do not exist. If you really like to cook you need to look for cooking classes in vacation so that you will have some basic idea of what cooking is all about. If you some other idea other than cooking then tries to attend one class related to cooking. This might change your mind and the experience that you gain will always remain in your mind

We can also try to take a class for couples if we want to try something different. These classes conducted in both cities and small towns. The main motive behind this idea is that someone can take up the work of cooking. The theme is that there are many ways to keep the art of cooking interesting forever. So cooking is an art that entertain us and other people as well.

Cooking might be selected for no reason the fact that hides behind this that cooking not only entertain us but also increases the cooking atmosphere in the kitchen. At present you have lot of time to take the cooking classes if you have not conducted cooking class till now. Though you are well versed in cooking there are things that needs to be learned in cooking.

## **10. THE VARIOUS KINDS OF FREE OUTDOOR COOKING RECIPES**

Free outdoor cooking recipes are there for everybody to enjoy and share besides providing the perfect opportunity for people to experiment and have fun while sharing jokes, recipe ideas and more by the camp-side.

While many people take up cooking as a hobby that is reserved for their spare time, others can also benefit from picking up the quick-and-easy methods of free recipes to have the confidence to participate in varied cooking events that occur on food network channels, online portals that advertise free outdoor cooking recipes besides other places. The charm of entering a cooking competition online or in person is exciting and cannot be stressed enough; however, there is definitely something for everyone as contests can include styles like grilling or Dutch oven cooking, besides free outdoor cooking recipes that are easy and fast.



In fact, much of the popularity of these recipes lies in their simple techniques of cooking that minimize preparation time and use of few ingredients that cook fast too. The menu selection and the technique of cooking one chooses for preparing outdoor meals also determines the fun, ease and simplicity factors for a great outdoor activity that can be shared and two best bets include Dutch oven cooking and grill-cooking, because they both give fast and nutritious results to whatever is cooked!

A wide array of dishes can be prepared using free outdoor cooking recipes that can include food groups like veggies, meats, breads, chicken, fish besides kebabs and sweet dishes too! Hassle-free, quick and using little heat, the appeal of free outdoor cooking recipes spreads far and wide to incorporate mealtime decisions for breakfast, luncheon and supper that can be either light or filling.

Salads and desserts are included in the cooking recipes that are comprehensive meal planning tools besides also leaving enough scope for introducing the meal with a tasty starter snack like grilled salmon or tenderloins. Roast, grill or bake, there's a cooking method that is ideal for every family and outdoor cooking makes this experience even more enjoyable when free outdoor cooking recipes are shared among guests who have enjoyed the outing too! While the preferred way to have outdoor fun and meals is no doubt grill-cooking that fixes healthy and hot hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken in a jiffy, there's much more fun to be had when menu-planning is done as group activity.

Latest advancements in the products available for outdoor cooking have furthered eased the activity for many hobbyists and technology being used in barbecue-stands, cookware tools, support equipment for outdoor cooking has become safety-conscious

that users can look forward to having a good time with great meals that make partying an all-time option for large families as well as small groups of friends. Thus, these easy recipes for outdoors increase the scope of creative fun for everyone!

## **11. WOOD BENCH FROM THE RIVER**

An attractive bench in a yard or garden provides a romantic location to sit and contemplate your surroundings. You may choose to place your bench in your front yard so you can watch the world go by. Or you might prefer to have a private hideaway in your backyard, surrounded by plants and wildlife.



Placing a bird feeder nearby offers you the opportunity to observe your feathered friends on their daily rounds.

Benches can be found or purchased made from a variety of materials. You might like a heavy solid steel bench or a painted wooden slat bench. If you are looking for something unique and rustic, you might be interested in this gorgeous bench at Amazing Interior Design made from reclaimed wood from a nearby river. The weathering on the wood gives it a beautiful one-of-a-kind design that accentuates the beauty of nature.

This builder has obviously put a lot of love, care, and hard work into this project and his attention shows in the final product. This is a very special piece that could act as a focal point for an outdoor living space. I can picture this bench next to a backyard koi pond, surrounded by lush green plants. Or perhaps on a front porch so the whole neighborhood can appreciate its beauty.

Outdoor living rooms are becoming more and more popular. Whether you are planning to host an outdoor summer barbecue or you just want a relaxing space for your family to enjoy the fresh air, putting some time and attention to designing your outdoor space is worth the effort. Build a gazebo over your bench to provide shade and protection from the elements. This structure will also allow you to plant vines such as grapes, kiwis or jasmine to beautify your outdoor living space. Fresh air and sunshine are conducive to good health and happy people.

Please visit the 'Amazing Interior Design' website below to see more.

Source: [Amazing Interior Design](#)

## **12. FABULOUS WOOD FURNITURE**

Just look at this beautiful log table! Fabulous wood furniture that involves Recycling, Repurposing and Reclaiming wood should be first and foremost in people's minds. So much furniture ends up in landfills and garbage dumps around the world. Plastic furniture is made with toxic chemicals and once broken is thrown away as trash. People these days are looking for sustainable options and reclaiming wood that was meant for landfills is an emerging way to decorate homes. Décor made with quality; sustainable materials can be passed down generations and generations due to long-lasting durability instead of disposable furniture thrown away like garbage and ending up in the dump. The best part is salvaged wood can be used for making something modern, fully-functional and a conversation piece as its one-of-a-kind.



Using re-claimed wood creates one-of-a-kind possibilities in the decoration of your home - both inside and outside. Using salvaged wood pieces or driftwood brings a bit of the "outdoors in" and showcases mother nature in interior design. Something as simple as a wooden pallet can be turned it into some many things like head boards for beds, coffee-tables, chairs, stools, cabinets, dining tables, deck furniture and more! And when you use reclaimed wood furniture in your decor ideas the possibilities are endless! With a little creativity, you can make your own custom furniture. For example, you could make a nice cabinet for BUT you don't have to make it from scratch. Just repurpose an old cabinet and give it a "makeover". This crafty way of re-using wood is affordable as using ideas online allows you to re-create/re-invent a piece for your home before buying something new. Some craft ideas are fun and easy enough for the entire family to get involved.

Don't forget they can be used indoors and out, and can be used for a beach house, cottage or cabin as well. We were inspired by the article below and we hope you are too!

Please visit the 'Buzznet' website below for more.

Source: [Buzznet](#)

## **13. HANDCRAFTED LOG LOUNGER**

These days everyone wants to incorporate reducing, reusing and recycling - into home decor and design. Therefore, in salvaging wood for your projects it should be called - Recycling, Repurposing and Reclaiming wood. These days, people across the globe are finding new ways to "reclaim" wood that was meant for landfills to utilize when decorating their homes. This trend of using salvaged wood furniture eliminates disposable furniture being thrown away like garbage. Buying or making reclaimed furniture can be a bit expensive, but the quality allows them to be passed down generations and generations due to long-lasting durability, style, and exceptional comfort. "Rustic log furniture" furniture and décor made with quality, sustainable materials can be used for making beds, loungers, coffee-tables, bar stools, chairs, dining tables and more!



Using "pioneer style" re-purposed wood in the decoration of your home creates unique and one-of-a-kind possibilities - inside or outside! Introducing salvaged pieces or works made out of driftwood brings a bit of mother nature to modern interior design. Some beautiful "Do-it-yourself" projects involved taking an old piece of furniture and repurposing it to give it a new life or identity. Something so simple and useless as a wooden pallet can be turned it into something chic, functional and an amazing conversation piece. Reclaimed wood furniture has a history, and this makes it charming and unique which lends character and warmth to your home. Remember that when reclaiming wood most are one of a kind, so designs are personal, original and bespoke. The possibilities are endless for using reclaimed wood furniture in your decor ideas!

Furniture using salvaged wood is affordable as the quality means you don't have to keep replacing it. Or get crafty and try to do-it-yourself by using ideas online to re-create a piece in your home before buying new things. Some ideas are fun for the whole family and can be used for a cabin or deck or beach house as well. Make sure to click the link to Pinterest below to get inspired!

Source: [Pinterest](#)

## 14. DIY TREE STUMP SIDE TABLES

A side table is an endlessly useful piece of furniture. I have always found that no matter how many tables and surfaces I have in my house I always seem to need more places to put things. An attractive side table on either side of a couch provides a place for books, magazines or a cup of steaming hot tea while you are relaxing at home.



If you enjoy woodworking and other do it yourself home projects, you can create a pair of attractive side tables for your home with very minimal cost.

The stumps of trees are often discarded because the wood is difficult to cut through due to the uneven grain. If you are fortunate enough to come across a couple of discarded stumps that you can reclaim then you already have the most important element for this project. Alternatively, if you have a property with tree stumps that need to be removed, you can save your stumps and put them to good use.

Natural wood is a beautiful addition to any home and can be used in infinitely many ways. Tree stumps offer a particularly attractive surface with their swirling patterns in the grain of the wood. This DIY article at Bye Bye, Brooklyn walks you step by step through your project to create two gorgeous wood stump end tables for your living room. They will show you how to get your table surface level and even. By sanding your table surface smooth and applying a stain you can accentuate the patterns of the grain. It is important to make sure your tree stumps are fully dry before you begin, so you may need some patience before you get started. But if you invest the time and energy in this unique project I am sure you will be thrilled with the results.

Please visit the 'Bye Bye, Brooklyn' website below for more information.

Source: [Bye Bye, Brooklyn](#)

## **15. ZOMBIE-PROOF LOG CABIN**

For Plants vs. Zombies and Walking Dead fans out there, this is what we all have been waiting for. \*winks\* this is a dream come true for all of us! I know deep in our 'hearts' that we anticipate a zombie apocalypse. Well, this zombie-proof log cabin can guarantee you a 10-year protection from our best friend zombies. Surely, you can eat ten slices of cheese pizzas and drink a whole case of beer inside this cabin

peacefully while the zombies try to get in to eat your brain and wait in vain. "Ha! What now, zombies?! You try n get me if you can!" We'll explore this anti-zombie cabin first before we continue to bash these zombies. \*big smiles\*



Zombie Fortification Cabin (ZFC-1) is a log cabin kit by Tiger Log Cabins. According to Amanda Kooser, it is designed with the walking dead in mind. The log cabin structure comprises of three buildings. The three buildings are "independent from each other with two lockable doors securing each building." Overall, the log cabin kit has an upper deck with 360deg vantage point plus escape hatch, re-enforced slit windows, walls and doors, barbed wire surround, and arsenal storage unit for weaponry. Of course, you can go on living normally inside this log cabin kit because it also has a garden section to grow vegetables, toilet system, kitchen area with microwave, and living area with TV, Xbox and sound system turntables. Who says you can't play while zombie apocalypse is happening outside, ha? \*winks\* You want to add security cameras? Sure! For more the add-ons, you can have Big Bear water cannon, search lights, flame thrower, riot protection outfit, and solar panels. The installation prize for this log cabin kit is almost 13 thousand pounds.

For more information about the features of Zombie Fortification cabin and the prices, click CNET's website below.

Source: [CNET](#)

## **16. LOG CABINS**

According to many historians, log cabins were first built in America among the Swedish community of Nya Sverige (New Sweden) on the Delaware River in 1638. The Swedish society however stayed for only a few decades before they were taken by the Dutch Colony of New Amsterdam, which then taken by the English. The Swedish people were known as smart and hardworking people.



Up to this day, log houses are still an American traditional building. The original craftsmanship of the real stacked logs in the Colonial Periods is gone, and nowadays most log houses are stacked together using steel bars.

Although a young generation may see it as plain stacked logs, a log house is a home with a special appeal. Log houses are not complete without its detailed architectures and trimming. And what makes it special is the experience and understanding you have in that house. As for house builders, building the log house is a fine artwork in where they want the people to fully grasp the comfort and its look at the same time.

Log cabins are great for family, friends or couples on vacation. You will experience simple and peaceful life away from the hustle bustle of the city noise. You will enjoy and appreciate the simplicity the log cabin can offer. A Log cabin is not just a decoration, but it is a lifestyle worth considering.

There are many types of log cabins and types of logs as well. Depending on the climate of the location, only specific logs and timber are used to build the log cabin. They are also crafted in different construction method so that it will last longer and studier. Although a log cabin does not look as tough as the cemented houses in the city, they are indeed sturdy and are manually crafted and built by hands.

Visit Pinterest below for more information.

Source: [Pinterest](#)

## 17. REDNECK LOG HOUSE

Need a laugh today?

Look no further! You're sure to get a laugh out of this hilarious photo of a "redneck" log house. Well, I'll give him that; he made a house out of a log! It's pretty clever if you think about it. You don't have to assemble all the pieces of wood, why do that when a perfectly good tree trunk is there ready to be used ?



People never cease to amaze and astound me! The maker was probably in need of a house and thought, why not try it out? The tree trunk itself would be a good structure I imagine. The bark and all the layers of tree rings that have built up over the years would add extra protection and insulation. I mean, certain animals live in trees, right? So why not a human? If you don't care about the design too much and are just looking for a simple, natural and down to basics home, than this would be a way to try. Its cute that he even put it up on the trailer bed to be able to transport it where ever he wants it!

I wish there were more photos of what it looks like on the inside! I can't really tell if its even made out of a real tree honestly, but thinking about a house made out of a large tree trunk sounds pretty neat to me any way. Maybe its just made out of some kind of composite material moulded into a tree trunk formation as a joke or a spin off of how so many people want a log house. Well here is literally a log that is a house. Go check it out, have a laugh today and let your imagination run wild. Just for the fun of it.

Source: [Pinterest](#)

## **18. THIS MOBILE HOME IS ON THE MARKET FOR \$1.2 MILLION**

For many of us, real estate in a place like the Hamptons can be seen as an expensive foray into the world of high class living. Living in a place like the Hamptons can be one of the most expensive places to live in the US



alone. This article however, shows that even a 700 square – foot mobile home can fetch up to 1.2 million USD, just for being in the Hamptons. Sitting near Indian Wells Beach, this mobile home calls for such a handsome price for its location alone, in a place like the Hamptons, real estate is all about location rather than personal estates fixtures. Looking at the photos, the trailer isn't the feature. The location may seem fantastic, but is it really worth 1.2 million USD? Only a mile away from the trailer, an estate sold for 4 million USD, and to make things better, the location sits only quarter mile from the estate of Jerry Seinfeld himself. (<http://www.6sqft.com/this-trailer-home-in-the-hamptons-wants-1-2-million/>) When it comes down to it, the trailer seems to be just a bonus to a place like this. The estate itself comes with over a third of an acre. With enough resources and time, anyone could create their dream mansion in a place like this, sitting next to a place like Indian Wells Beach. Question is, is the 1.2 Million worth it for the land alone? The mobile home itself has one bedroom and one bathroom only, and as unbelievable as that sounds, it's no joke. Although next to Indian Wells Beach, the location happens to be located on a private flag lot, with over a third of an acre of land in place like the Hamptons. When you think about it, it kind of makes sense, but with a crazy asking price like this, it makes you wonder what some are willing to pay to be a part of the rich and fabulous neighborhood like the Hamptons.

To read more about this article, visit the website link below to the 'House Beautiful' website.

Source: [House Beautiful](#)

## **19. NINE SUMMER COTTAGES WE LONG TO ESCAPE TO**

Summer is just a few weeks away. If you still don't have a plan on where to spend the summer season, spare a few minutes reading this article because this might just be the help you need! Staying in a hotel is good but let's just admit. They can be a bit expensive at times and cliché. Why don't you stay at something new but would still make you feel like you're in your home sweet home? A summer cottage best suits that description. A staycation at a summer cottage would add more fun to your summer escapade! Here, let me take you to two of those nine best summer cottages.



What about a stay in a cob during summertime? If you'd like, the cabin in Maine Island, British Columbia in Canada is just the cob thing! This cozy cob can accommodate two people. The cabin has a bedroom with a real bed. It also has a bathroom complete with all the essentials and a kitchen with utensils for guests to cook their own meals. If you can't get away with social media and connecting with family and friends back home, the cob can provide wireless internet just for you. Per night has a rate of \$115.

If you'd like a summer vacation in Ireland, consider staying at the Enchanting Mill Cottage in Kilkenny. The house for rent has a cozy ambiance that can accommodate up to four guests. It has two bedrooms and three beds, a kitchen, and free parking space on premises. Still watch your favorite television shows in this house and stay connected to the world through the wireless internet. The indoor fireplace will help you stay warm during the cold summer nights. Each night costs 107 dollars.

These are only a few of the coolest summer cottages to spend this summer. To view more cottages, click on House Beautiful website link below.

Source: [House Beautiful](#)

## **20. SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL TINY HOUSE DOCUMENTARY PREVIEW**

In 2010, the average home built in North America was 1,900 sq feet. The average bedroom size 150 sq feet. That is a lot of house. As houses have grown bigger in size so have our mortgages. With increasing home size is increasing debt, increasing work load and increasing stress. We work long days to pay for these homes and all the stuff that goes in them. Whether worn out from the financial stress or the strain of having to maintain and care for these homes, many have begun to look for alternative solutions. Some want to downsize their belongings, some their debt. Some it is the pursuit of less stuff, freeing up their time to pursue hobbies and interests long ignored. Whatever their reasons, whatever their dreams, these men and women have sought and found their solution in a Tiny House.



What exactly is a Tiny House?

Tiny Houses are usually constructed on utility trailers. They are a small stick house. How small? A Tiny House is defined as a house under 320 sq feet. Did you catch that? Under 320 sq feet! Picture two of your bedrooms. Picture that being your entire living space! Not a lot of space is it?!

What brings people to a place where they decide to downsize so drastically? How do they do it? Why do they do it? What in the world can they possibly fit in a space that small? Does it even look nice? Where do they put these homes? What kind of rules and regulations are there? Are they mobile? Are they permanent? Can you live on the water? Can anyone do this? Can you? Can I?

Let's find out! Coming April 30th, 2015! Small is Beautiful - A Tiny House documentary will take us on this unusual journey. We will meet men and women who have decided to change their life by, changing their home! Check it out by using the link below.

Source: [Tiny House Talk](#)