

Everything You Need To Know Before Taking The Leap Into An Alternative Housing Lifestyle



In this version of the alternative housing lifestyle guide, you have access to Section 1. Here is a glimpse of the other topics we cover in the complete guide giving you a comprehensive idea of what an alternative housing lifestyle looks like and how to prepare.

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You can buy the complete guide here:

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Section 1

Discovering all you can about alternative housing

Are you ready to take the plunge and explore alternative housing? At Alternative Housing Options, we're here to help you make that transition as smooth as possible. This guide covers all the aspects of alternative housing, including what it looks like, the pros and cons, how to try before you buy, and more. By the time you're done reading, you'll fully understand what an alternative housing lifestyle entails and whether or not it's right for you.

In this guide, we've carefully broken down each step of the process for transitioning into an alternative housing lifestyle. We'll walk you through everything from researching different types of houses to finding financing options and everything in between. We'll even give you tips and tricks on how to best prepare for living in a smaller space.

We understand that this big transition can be intimidating, so we're here to help alleviate some of your anxiety and provide answers to any questions that may arise. You'll learn practical tips on making the most of your space and feeling comfortable in your new home.

We'll discuss everything that goes along with living in an alternative house — from energy efficiency considerations to design choices that will affect your comfort level and quality of life. We'll also explore ways in which having an alternative home can benefit both your wallet and the environment at large!

This comprehensive guide will give you all the knowledge needed to transition into an alternative housing lifestyle successfully – so don't wait any longer. Let's dive in!

Curious About Alternative Housing? Here's What You Need To Know

The pull toward alternative housing can be powerful. You may be fed up with your financial situation and want a cheaper place to live, desire more privacy and freedom over your current home. Whatever the case, we found some who love their alternative home and others who would instead go back to an apartment or stick-built home. We took a poll of the lifestyle people are living in the most popular forms of alternative housing and ranked them on a scale of 1-5. This is what we found from least to most satisfying.



Schoolie

A schoolie is a bus converted into a mix of a camper/RV/ tiny house. You can make larger sleeping spaces by pulling out seats and combining areas. Countertops can give you a table,

kitchen, or activity space. Compost or container toilets and self-plumbing sinks can solve the issue of water and sewer.

And, of course, you can park anywhere overnight parking is allowed, which makes the [world your home](#).

In this poll, the responses were that the Schoolie was initially chosen to save money. However, there were many hidden costs. They forgot about insurance, gas, parking, dumping waste, maintenance, lack of storage, and city regulations.

Respondents rated this lifestyle a 1 due to the overall costs, maintenance issues, and lack of privacy.

Yurt or tent



A [yurt](#) is a nomadic type of tent or circular home that has been around for thousands of years. They can be assembled and disassembled for travel. It is a heavy-duty material that can withstand all kinds of weather.

Traditionally, nomads in Asia traveled and brought their yurt homes with them. Modern yurts have evolved into full-time, year-round housing in all types of climates. They are sturdier than a tent or tipi and still give you the freedom to travel or stay.

They are customizable and can have many comforts of a traditional home, like a loft bedroom separate from the living space.

If you decide to live in a yurt full-time, a separate structure or [tipi](#) as an outhouse will work great with a composting toilet and self-contained sink or portable water source. The downside is that they require land and concrete or wooden platform to set on.

Overall the responses for a yurt were not great at a 2 rating. The main cons were constant bug infestations, nothing stayed dry, and when it was windy, the yurt was loud. However, on the plus side, because they got it secondhand, housing itself was free. Would you be able to live in a wet, bug-filled tent if it was free? Maybe.

Living in a car

While this is what most people and police departments consider homeless, it is allowed if you park in an approved area. Our responses for living in a car were due to moving to a new area and being unable to find affordable housing. This can be hard, especially if the overall cost of living is much higher than where you moved from.

The respondents rated the lifestyle as a 2, not completely horrible. Rising gas prices were the main issue. The main advantage was getting more sleep because they were not staying up using a computer all night.

Cooperative Living (Co-op)

A [co-op](#) can be a living space you buy into, like a condo, but you rent your room instead of the whole space.

You share it with your roommates and often have house requirements to follow. Some people love the co-op lifestyle as they are in many major cities. However, co-op living may not be for everyone. The poll responses were not in favor of this lifestyle. They didn't like always being around people and needed more privacy.

The major advantage was that they rented a room for cheap, \$275 a month, helping them save for a house. While roommates may sound like a disadvantage, if you can save toward your own home by living that cheaply, it sounds like a winner. Due to the responses, we gave it a 2.

Cob Homes



Cob homes have been used for hundreds of years and are still popular today due to their natural insulation properties, low cost, and simple construction method. They are made from a mix of soil, sand, and straw which is then formed into walls that are later plastered with clay for protection against the elements. You can build any size or shape structure, including round

walls with cob. However, cob is labor-intensive, like those men who build jungle structures with clay. It is durable, fireproof, and resistant to earthquakes. Discover more about cob houses in our article, [“What is a Cob House.”](#)

Our respondents rated this type of alternative housing 3 out of 5, citing the need for regular maintenance, such as re-plastering walls or replacing rotting wood frames, as the biggest drawback. We love the idea of a cob home and the possibilities of creating a unique house.

Geodesic dome homes

The Geodesic Dome is another alternative housing option that has seen a surge in popularity in recent years. It is made up of triangular panels arranged in a spherical shape, giving it an incredibly strong structure with very little construction material needed. It consists of the hub, struts, plywood, dormers, extensions, and skylights. These homes are also very energy efficient. They are [unique](#) looking and can be built relatively inexpensively compared to a traditional home. A dome home, a kit for a 40-foot in diameter, was \$30,000.



The advantages are that they are extremely energy efficient, use very little electricity to keep warm or cool, and can be easily customized in terms of size and shape.

Our respondents rated them 3 out of 5, citing the difficult building process being the problem.

Earthship



An [Earthship](#) is built out of the earth and a mix of recycled and reclaimed items, with energy-efficient and sustainable products for electricity, water, heat, cooling, and waste removal.

The pros are that the building costs are reasonable because they are building it themselves.

They also have [energy-efficient products like solar panels and water collection systems](#), which save them money. Overall our respondents liked the Earthship as much as any house, right in the middle of the range at a 3.

According to the poll, the most significant problem with an Earthship is that they take a lot of time to build.

Shipping container



[Shipping containers](#) allow you to be creative in your build and turn it into a tiny home or combine it to make a larger home. They can be purchased relatively [inexpensively](#) compared to buying a home. However, [the primary concern is getting permits for the home you want to build.](#)

Our respondents love their shipping container home. They found reasonably priced land, which is critical to keeping the costs low. However, respondents reported difficulties obtaining permits via their local housing departments. Other respondents built a shipping container cabin which started very cost-effective. They have lived there for a few years now and have added on to include a few extra niceties like a deck, plumbing, and sewer instead of composting toilets and self-containing sinks. Power is mainly solar with generator backup, but it works well for them. The shipping container home was given a 4.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)

An [ADU](#) doesn't sound very cool, but you can make a great tiny home out of a converted garage or build a mother-in-law suite or one-bedroom cabin in the backyard.

The ADU is a small additional living quarter in the primary residence's yard. In many areas, they can only be used for the family to rent or occupy. In specific locations, they can be rented out.

The poll respondents were renting a converted garage and were not enjoying the lifestyle. It resembles a tiny house at 350 sq. ft. but has no laundry or dishwasher. Storage was also very sparse. It is hard to keep clean because two adults and a large dog share it. The significant advantage is that it is cheap to rent at \$500 a month and allows them to save for a home.

We love ADUs as tiny homes and know that with the right amenities, this can rank right up there with a tiny house. Despite the poll responses, we are going to rate this a 4.

Tiny Homes



Tiny houses are becoming increasingly popular for those looking for a more sustainable lifestyle away from the hustle and bustle of the city. This can be a great way to live cheaply and in an eco-friendly manner, as most tiny houses are powered by solar or wind energy and use rainwater harvesting systems.

The poll responses were universally positive, with respondents giving it a score of 5 out of 5.

The biggest issues mentioned were the lack of space and difficulty finding a place to park their tiny house.

Manufactured home



A [manufactured home](#) can be a prefabricated house similar to any home built in a factory and then installed on the building site. They can also be mobile homes similar to RVs and campers but built to withstand any weather.

Our respondents love their manufactured homes and rated them a 5. They made customizations during the build and have plenty of space at 2000 sq. ft. Overall, they saved money over building a traditional stick-built home.

The main issue is that the land can be hard to find for an affordable price. After living in a manufactured home for years, some respondents found them hard to sell because buyers could not get a mortgage. Once you find land, you may need to pay for the [utilities and public services](#) like sewer.

This is not an exhaustive list of all types of alternative housing available. However, it gives you a picture of the options you can consider. You can also check out our [25 Alternative Housing Ideas to Fit Your Lifestyle article](#).

Want to know more about the pros and cons, costs, and benefits of alternative housing, we've got you covered.

Buy the complete guide here....

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