



## Artisan Tiny House

How wide should I build my Tiny House on wheels.

My favorite answer for questions like this is always, it depends.

Design drivers: Keep it Simple - keep it legal – Wise use of building materials – Keep it affordable – Will it be moved often.

First off Trailers that are used for tiny houses are almost always 8'-6" to the outside of the fenders. However the inner platform that you build your home on can be anywhere from 7ft which is the width of the main frame up to the 8'-6" width.

There are more considerations though:

What style are you building? Traditional styles like gable roofs will typically have at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ " siding and usually  $\frac{5}{4}$  trim. Modern design like a single slope side to side may have no trim but add in your siding.

Many building materials including plywood come in 8ft lengths and lumber is always in 2ft increments. Let's work with what is. If the building frame is 96" (8ft) a full sheet of plywood fits across it with no waste. If the end walls are now 8ft wide to match the floor and you add  $\frac{5}{4}$  trim around the windows, corners and doors your home is now 8'-2- $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide add a dryer vent on one side and a range vent on the other they are about 3 inches deep and you are at the legal limit.

If the building frame is 100" or 102' the legal limit you now need to cut your flooring plywood from two 8ft lengths staggered. You say no big deal you are always going to have some waste. That's true but your end walls are now 8'-4" so you need a 10' 2x4 instead of an 8' 2x4 for the top and bottom plates, and then when you go to sheet the wall on the outside you need two sheets instead of one. Sure you can use the drop from the front for the back wall. If I do the math right there is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  sheet waste. There are other ways to use an 8' piece but you will end up with some waste. Now you add siding and trim you are over the limit not much but don't add any vents or other items like electrical outlets, water fills etc. to the side walls.

No big deal you say it might only be a hundred dollars of so in waste.

For my money I want to stay with an 8 foot wide trailer frame for most models.

That said can we build wider models with SIPs? Absolutely

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