# Weatherize to save money, energy

Homeowners know that maintaining a comfortable home can be a lot of work. As one project is completed or addressed, another may pop up. In spite of the hard work that can go into maintaining a home, many homeowners would agree that such efforts are well worth it to feel safe and comfortable inside one's own home.

Weatherization is one of the ways to make a home more comfortable while also saving money and energy. Some weatherization projects may be best left to the professionals, while others can be tackled by homeowners themselves. The following are some projects homeowners can expect to encounter as they weatherize their homes or work with professional weatherization services.

• Home energy audit: The U.S. Department of Energy notes that the purpose of a home energy audit is to give homeowners a complete picture of how they consume energy. Audits can shed light on how much energy is being consumed and if there is anywhere in the home where energy might be going to waste. Audits should be conducted before beginning any weatherization projects. Professional auditors may give advice on which areas of the home should be addressed first, while DIYers who conduct their own audits can make a list of issues before determining where to start.

• Leakage: Homeowners may think leakage only poses a problem in winter, when cold air can creep in through cracks around doors and windows and make residents cold, forcing them to raise the temperature on the thermostat. But leaks can affect comfort levels and energy bills during the summer, too, forcing homeowners to adjust their air conditioners to ensure a home is cool on hot days. Choose a cool, windy day to inspect for drafts around doors and windows. The DOE notes that air leakage can adversely affect indoor air quality and contribute to moisture problems that can affect occupants' health.

• Insulation: A poorly insulated home will cost more to heat in winter and more to keep cool in summer. The DOE notes that heat flows from warmer to cooler until there is no longer a temperature difference. So during winter, heat will flow from heated living spaces to unheated areas of the home, including attics and garages. In summer, heat will flow from the outdoors into the home. Properly insulating a home will decrease this flow of heat, ensuring homeowners aren't paying to heat rooms they don't use in winter or paying more to keep rooms cool in summer because heat is flowing in from the exterior of the home.

Weatherizing a home is a great way for homeowners to reduce their carbon footprints and save some money.

# Sea lion moves to Maple Street

CHANTELLE MEYER/ SIUSLAW NEWS

**Green-Eyed Sue, the Dancing With Sea Lions sculpture sponsored by the Siuslaw News, has a new home on Maple Street, across from the newspaper and next door to The Chicken Coop and About U Hair Salon. Siuslaw News Publisher Jenna Bartlett asked property owners Kurt and Deb Vander Bogart if the sea lion could move there from the sculpture's former location, Maple Street Park at Bay and Maple streets, and Florence Public Works Department members moved her. More public art is expected to fill Historic Old Town as the Florence Public Art Committee continues its Art Exposed Gallery on Bay Street.**

**Green-Eyed Sue was created by artist Matt Hawk during the Florence Events Center's 20th anniversary Dancing With Sea Lions project in 2016.**

# *Tiny homes create cost savings*

The tiny house movement has transformed the way many people look at housing and how it can help them downsize not only their residences, but also their lives.

Living small has been embraced as an eco-friendly way to cut costs and simplify life. According to the tiny house resource The Tiny Life, the typical American home is 2,600 square feet, while the typical tiny house is between 100 and 400 square feet. Many tiny homes are smaller than the average urban apartment. Proponents of the small house movement say that living the tiny life isn't really a sacrifice, but a way to experience a simpler, fuller life that frees them from expensive mortgage payments and unnecessary clutter.

One of the advantages of tiny house living is that buyers are often able to buy their homes (whether stationary or mobile) outright, eliminating the need to finance their purchases. Tiny homes also boast much lower utility bills than more traditional homes. Outfitting tiny homes with wood-burning appliances can keep heating costs to a minimum. In some instances, tiny homes are completely off the grid, harvesting electricity through solar panels and employing rain-capturing technology to supply water.

According to the resource Living Big in a Tiny House, the tiny house movement is eco-friendly. Small homes create much smaller carbon footprints than large homes. In addition, the resources needed to build and sustain such homes pales in comparison to those needed to build and maintain more traditional homes. Furthermore, with less interior space, residents of tiny homes are less likely to acquire items they don't necessarily need, reducing clutter and saving money.

The following statistics, courtesy of The Tiny Life, paint a picture of the tiny home lifestyle:

• Sixty-eight percent of tiny house people have no mortgage, and 78 percent own their home.

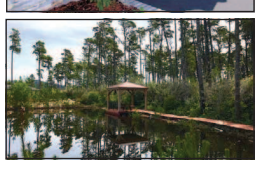
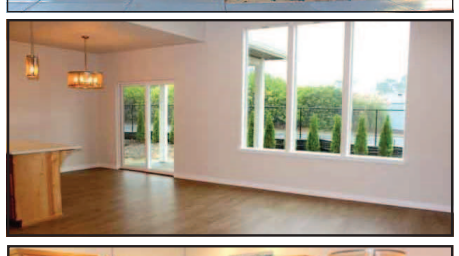
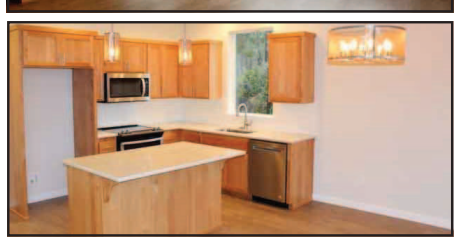
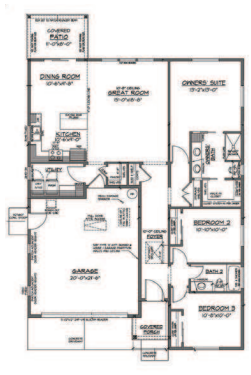
• The average cost to build a tiny house is $23,000 for do-it-yourselfers.

• Eighty-nine percent of tiny house dwellers have less credit card debt than the average person.

• Many tiny home owners are age 50 or older.

Those interested in the tiny house lifestyle can find many companies that now specialize in these dwellings. Empty-nesters looking to downsize may find tiny homes are an affordable way to simplify their lives.


BRAND NEW HOME SANDPINES EAST

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