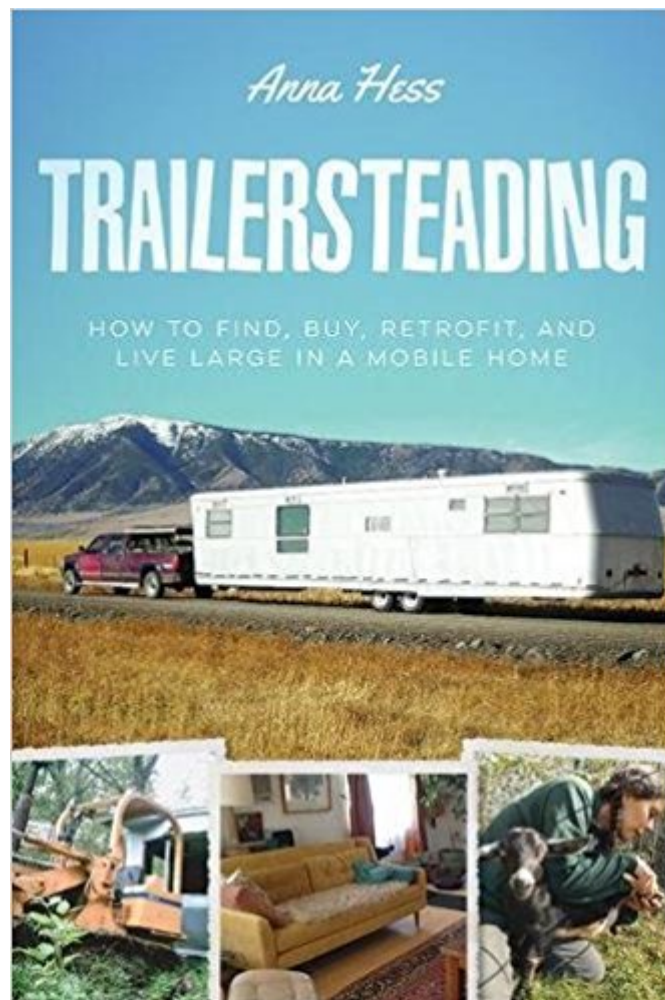




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# Trailersteading: How To Find, Buy, Retrofit, And Live Large In A Mobile Home



## Synopsis

All the advantages of a tiny house at a fraction of the cost! Imagine what you could do with your time if you didn't have to spend \$16,000 a year on rent or a mortgage. Old single-wide mobile homes can often be found for free (and installed for a couple of thousand dollars) in rural areas, so trailersteading is akin to dumpster-diving. A trailer allows you to live without debt, to keep your ecological footprint to a minimum with energy bills at or below the national average, and even to blend right in alongside traditional-house dwellers after a few years. Trailersteading profiles thirteen mobile-home dwellers who have used trailers as a stepping stone toward achieving their dreams. Some have spent the cash saved to expedite renovations involving extra insulation, pitched roofs, classy interiors, and even basements, while the found money has allowed others to go off the grid. Many also took advantage of a low-cost housing option to pursue their passions, becoming full-time homemakers or homesteaders. In addition to the case studies, this book presents easy methods of minimizing the negative sides of trailer life and accentuating the positive. For example, did you know a single-wide is easy to retrofit for passive solar heating? That a simple plant-covered trellis can break up the blockiness of the trailer's external appearance? Learn which parts of installing and upgrading your trailer are easy for a DIYer and which parts should be left to the experts, along with how to cheaply heat and cool a mobile home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An obvious buy for anyone who is retrofitting or renovating a mobile home, but it's also a

subtle winner in the library of any DIYer, homesteader, renovator, or dreamer who is interested in alternative housing ideas." greenmama blog

Anna Hess enjoys writing about the adventures, both on her blog at [WaldenEffect.org](http://WaldenEffect.org), and in her books. Her first paperback, *The Weekend Homesteader*, helped thousands of homesteaders-to-be find ways to fit their dreams into the hours leftover from a full-time job.

Hubby and I were forced into early retirement due to my health. We moved to Virginia in 2009, as this was always meant to be our retirement area. Then, 18 months ago, sick of renting, we found a 1997 single-wide on 1.24 acres, with creek frontage, for a SONG, with the owner carrying the note. OH, HAPPY DAY! We cheaply fenced the front for our dogs, with a larger fenced area for the garden. Our 938 sf feels like a mansion, because our mortgage is so low and before long there will be NO mortgage! Anna Hess' book has given me further inspiration as to ideas and projects. It is nice to see there are others out there who feel as we do. Great read, well-written, and worth the pennies it cost. THANK YOU!

I found this book very helpful for some decisions I have to make soon. To tell the truth I never in a million years would have considered moving into a mobile home. But this year, I inherited my parents' 1969 Detroit mobile home. At my age(60), I am finding my original off-the-grid homestead hard to keep up with. The mobile home I now own, has a large addition built on, including a chimney in place for a wood stove. After reading *Trailersteading*, I have been studying my pictures of it over with a different point of view. To sell it, I either had to owner finance it or sell it very cheap. That would be fine except it is on two acres of land, has a well and septic in place. It also includes a three car garage plus a shed with an underground root cellar. What more could a homesteader want? I now have a vision of remodeling the trailer and addition to suit me and my lifestyle. So with my father's garden area, fruit trees, grape vines and berry bushes, I'd be pretty well set up. *Trailersteading* has managed to make me excited about a change in my life that will make it possible for me to live without that mortgage bill every month. Thank you Anna Hess, and I hope you will come out with another book on this same subject! I love your term of "Trailersteading" and so many people do it already but don't know it.

I just found Anna's blog recently after hearing her husband on a podcast interview. I have immediately taken to her writings. I came to this book already considering living in a trailer once my

wife and I find some property. However, I was considering it merely because of the cost. After reading this book, I am genuinely excited for a Trailersteading adventure. This book not only does a great job of painting a picture, but it gives lots of concrete ideas and advice. If you have any desire for either simplistic living, or homesteading, you need to read this book. Its a phenomenal read, and I can't recommend it highly enough

Although I've never actually lived in a mobile home or "off the grid" I've always been fascinated by the idea of doing something like that. Trailersteading is an excellent resource guide for anyone who is considering moving into a mobile home, whether it's in a mobile park or one that's parked on a piece of land. Or even if you've just been curious to know more about this topic, as I was. I loved reading all the case histories of people who have taken mobiles (and often ones that they bought for almost nothing) and turned them into great places to live. The attention to detail in this book is admirable too. I am going to check out Anna Hess' novel Watermelon Summer too, the cover photo alone had me hooked! :-) And based on the quality of this book, I'm guessing it's going to be a worthwhile read too. Highly recommended! Geraldine Helen Hartman author of The Groovy Green Kitchen: Weeknight Veggie Slow Cooker

We live in a "mobile home" that is not mobile, as it has no axles under it. We added on two rooms and it has all the space we will ever need. There are also many products out there now to help remodel these homes. Lowe's has primers for anything you want to paint from walls to cabinets to floors. Just like a "real" house there are many decorating options. I loved the book. Thanks!

I've been craving a life free of debt for a long time, but couldn't find a way to do it. I liked tiny houses, but they don't have tiny price tags. This book helped me see that a trailer could be just as great as a tiny house for a fraction of the cost. Using the ideas in this book we bought a 900 square foot trailer for \$4000, and are well on our way to owning the big piece of land we want without a mortgage. This book is a must read for anyone seeking a debt free path to independent living.

This book was well written, with lots of "real life" examples from other people not just the author. I learned a lot about the realities of "trailer living" out on the land. I live in a 40+ yo double wide m.h. with great views in a park in southern Oregon. I would love to have more land, but I do have a yard big enough for 3 large raised beds & small greenhouse, and we have a community garden in our park. I am retired and single, so I do the best I can with what I have. Living here is way less

expensive than owning a house, or even renting an apartment. I recommend m.h. park living as a low cost alternative to 30 year home mortgages & high property taxes. Do your research about the park ownership/management, talk to residents about how they like living there, check out the park rules etc. Most of my improvements have been in the garden, where I raise a lot of my own veggies, but I did have a wood stove installed which I use for both cooking & heating in the winter. If I sell my place, I would be able to get my investment out of it, plus some. I will be buying all of the books by Anna Hess and reading her blog! Thanks for the inspiration & information you have given me!

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