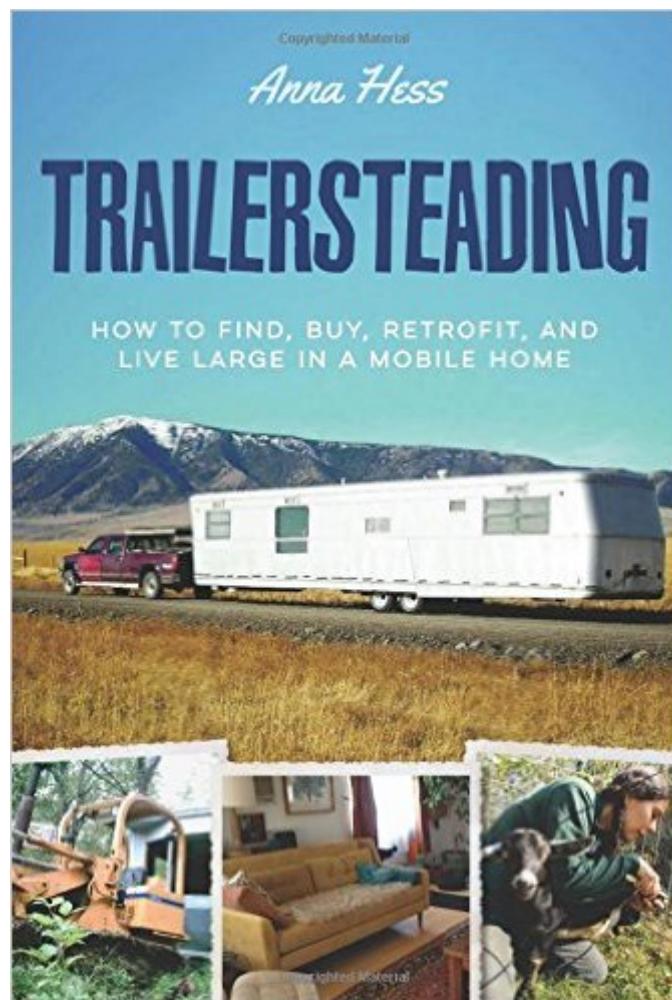


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# Trailersteading: How To Find, Buy, Retrofit, And Live Large In A Mobile Home



## 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

I have just finished Trailersteading and am very impressed. I have been reading the

Permaculture/self sufficiency/homesteading literature for a number of years now and have amassed quite the library in this genre. It has become rare to find something really new and exciting and that fires up my imagination. Trailersteading did that for me. The author, Anne Hess, has pointed out a simple solution to the complex question of sustainable and affordable housing that has plagued the back-to-the-land movement since the 1960s. We have seen all sorts of truly wild and wonderful home designs and innovative advancements come out of the movement, but it seems that most or all of them have relied upon either substantial outlays of money or massive investments of labor. Both of those inputs are exactly what many new homesteaders are lacking! Hess is the first author that I am aware of to directly address this problem with a workable solution. In retrospect, perhaps the solution lay in front of movement for quite a quite some time. The general process Hess describes is actually very similar to what Henry David Thoreau did. He found a small home, purchased it, disassembled it, moved it to Walden Pond, reassembled and upgraded it to suit his purposes there. Hess has brought Thoreau's simplicity principle into the 21st century and shows her reader how to apply his thinking to the present. Thoreau would be pleased. I also enjoyed how Hess addresses the issue of the social stigma surrounding mobile homes. It is something I simply never thought about. Perhaps it is time to reinvent the image of the old mobile home. Reimagining them as eco-groovy, responsible and something to get and be excited about.

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