

Why Manufactured Homes?

Affordability

According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics, in 1997 the average cost of a manufactured home was less than \$28.94 per square foot! Compare that with the average cost of a site-built home in the same year of \$61.47 per square foot. The Bureau also found that the average cost of manufactured housing in the same time period was \$41,100 versus an average of \$132,150 (excluding land price) for site-built housing. Once you take the time to see the quality of modern manufactured housing, the choice is easy!

Useful Life

A recently released study conducted at the University of Georgia debunks the widely-held belief that manufactured homes are temporary dwellings with very short "life expectancy." University of Georgia Professor and head of the Department of Housing and Consumer Economics, Dr. Carol Meeks, estimated the useful life of an average manufactured home, occupied year-round, to be in excess of 55 years.

Safety

The popular misconception that manufactured housing is unsafe and poorly built is a myth that dies hard. The truth is that every manufactured home built since June 15, 1976 must be constructed in accordance with very strict Federal guidelines, the Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards, more commonly known as the HUD Code. While site-built housing is regulated only by state and local building codes, the HUD Code is much more stringent. It regulates manufactured home design and construction, fire resistance, energy efficiency, strength and durability. Most recent revisions were added to increase energy efficiency and ventilation standards and, in areas prone to hurricane-force winds, to improve wind resistance. Every manufactured home built today carries from the factory, a certification label issued by a third-party inspection agency, assuring that it was built and inspected in accordance with the current HUD Code.

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