

## READING TIME

### An Earthship – The Perfect Green Home

Imagine a home that is made from waste and yet doesn't produce any. Sounds out of this world, doesn't it? Well, back in the 1970s the first Earthship was designed and built by an **architect** named Mike Reynolds. He wanted to create an **environmentally friendly** house that would generate its own electricity and heating, using local materials and recycled products.

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The first Earthship was built using car tyres, earth, **cans** and bottles. Today, anyone can order an Earthship in a package and build it themselves. The package contains everything that is needed except the **tyres**. But don't worry. They can be found at most local dumps!<sup>1</sup> The tyres are used as the Earthship's **bricks**. They are placed in the **shape** that you want the house to be and then they are filled with earth. This is the basis of the house's heating system. The sun heats the earth in the tyres and this heat is stored and slowly released.

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Heat from the sun is also used to create electricity, and rainwater is filtered and stored in **tanks** under the house. Dirty water from the kitchen and bathroom is also **filtered** and reused for the toilet. The Earthship is the dream green home. It costs close to nothing, it will be built very quickly and there aren't any bills to pay. So, why don't you think about building your own Earthship and help protect the Earth?

15

<sup>1</sup> rubbish heaps



1 Who designed and built the first Earthship ?

2 Why did he do this ?

3 What do you need to build an Earthship ?

4 How does the house's heating system work ?

5 Where do these houses get water from ?

6 Why is it 'the dream green home' (l. 14) ?

7 Would you ever consider living in an Earthship ?

Because it costs close to nothing, it is easy to build and there aren't any bills to pay.

Rainwater is filtered and stored in tanks under the house. Dirty water from the kitchen and bathroom is filtered and reused for the toilet.

**An architect named Mike Reynolds.**

**Car tyres, earth, cans and bottles.**

The sun heats the earth in the tyres that are used as bricks. This heat is stored and slowly released.

I find it a really exciting idea as I would help protect the Earth.

He wanted to create an environmentally friendly house.