

DIRECTIONS FOR PAINTING RAIN BARRELS



The rain barrel you receive will either be blue or white like the picture above. If you do not care for the way they look, you have the option of painting them. You can paint them a more neutral color to better blend in like the green above.

Or you may get creative and paint a beautiful picture for people and animals to admire:



Detailed Prep and Painting Tips

1. Wash entire barrel with warm water and dish detergent. Dry with soft cloth.
2. Sand the barrel with 220-grit sandpaper. A light sanding is all that is needed to remove the barrel's waxy coat and give the primer something to bite to. The paint then sticks to the primer.
3. Wipe barrel down with either vinegar or an ammonia/water solution.
4. Primer --- Do not brush or spray on too thin. Work into all crevices, including stamped letters. Cover the entire surface. Let dry well. You must be able to put primer on immediately after sanding, as the surface will re-wax if left. Make sure the primer can adhere to plastic.

5. When primer is completely dry, you may sketch your design and begin painting. Use a dull pencil, as a sharp pencil will scratch off the primer. The pencil marks do erase well. It is recommended using two to three light coats of paint, to reduce chances of the paint sagging and dripping!

7. When you are finished painting the design on your barrel, it is highly recommended to give 48 hours drying time before you move it, longer would be better.

8. Finally, we recommend using a clear coat to protect the paint design and give your barrel a nice sheen.

A Few Helpful Tips: • Follow the basic rules you would when painting a wall. Tape, cut in and fill in. Do the background first and then the detail. • Remember thick coats of paint tend to peel! Use multiple thin coats. • When using masking tape, remove tape before paint dries to prevent the tape pulling off dry paint.

Rain Barrel Maintenance

- ▶ Place barrel on a flat, level, elevated surface
 - Cinder blocks are an option
 - The higher you place your barrel the more pressure!
- ▶ Make sure barrel is stable and will not fall over with height increase.
- ▶ Clean gutters on a regular basis or install a screen in the rain barrel or gutter
- ▶ Never use rain water for cooking or drinking
- ▶ Use rain water within a week or two to discourage algae growth
 - Or place goldfish in the barrel to eat algae & mosquitoes, but make sure there is adequate water and some food for the fish
 - Painting the barrel, a dark color helps prevent algae growth as well.
- ▶ Keep top of barrel sealed to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in water
 - Place 1 tablespoon olive oil every couple rain events *Creates an oil sheen as a barrier against mosquitoes
 - Place mosquito dunks/tabs to prevent mosquitoes

Winter Care

- ▶ Empty rain barrel and store on side with the spigot up in the air.
- ▶ Rinse barrel prior to storage to clean any debris out of it.
- ▶ Reconnect downspout/remove downspout connector piece and place cap on. these materials and instructions are included in the kit.

