

How to Paint a Rain Barrel

Supplies

- Plastic Rain Barrel
- Dish soap
- Vinegar
- Scrubbing pad or fine grit sand paper
- Household eraser pad
- Plastic Primer spray
- Acrylic paint (spray or craft paint)
- Stencils (optional)
- Polyurethane spray

Instructions

1. Remove any fittings from the barrel if possible.
2. Clean the barrel using dish soap and water and rinse. This is a good time to clean the inside of the barrel too.
3. Clean the barrel using 50/50 mix of water and vinegar to remove any lubricant that may have been present during manufacturing process. You can also use a mild degreaser as well
4. Prepare the outside of the barrel for the primer by roughening it up using a scrubbing pad (Scotch Brite green pad) or very fine-grit sand paper (800-1000). Do not use anything that could gouge the plastic. Move in circular motion as if waxing a car.
5. Go over the barrel again using a household eraser pad (think Mr. Clean magic eraser), moving in a circular motion.
6. Using a primer made for plastic, spray an even coat over the entire barrel. Use one spray can for a 55-gallon barrel. You can get either clear or white primer based on your preference. This is a very important step to help the final paint stick. Use the instructions on the can and allow it to dry.
7. Now you can paint your barrel with an acrylic paint. If painting a solid color you can use one full can of spray paint per 55-gallon barrel. If you would like to do a more intricate design, you can use crafters acrylic paint and use a paintbrush to apply it. This is a great time to use stencils too. Allow your paint to fully dry before going to the next step.
8. Now that you have your barrel painted, you will want to use a full can of clear sealant spray such as polyurethane to protect your paint against weathering. Allow the sealer to fully dry before moving on.
9. Now that your barrel is fully painted and sealed, you can re-install your fittings and hook up your rain barrel.
10. Enjoy!