

How to Paint a Rain Barrel

A step-by-step guide to personalizing your rain barrel

1. **CLEANING** - Vinegar is a good choice for the cleaning liquid. It is eco-friendly and is good at getting rid of germs, molds and bacterias. Just scrub the surface of your rain barrel and wait until completely dry before the next step.
2. **SANDING** - Now that your rain barrel is completely dry, it's time to sand! Sanding your rain barrel will make the surface more rough and manageable for the painting process. Sand the surface of your rain barrel.
3. **VACUUMING** - Vacuuming your rain barrel is important so that when you paint it, it doesn't have dust on it. Vacuum the rain barrel to get the dust from sanding off. Rinse the excess dust off with water. Then, let it air dry completely.
4. **PRIMER** - Apply a primer coat to your rain barrel. The primer will be like an adhesive for the paint, making sure it doesn't peel off or crack. After applying, let air dry.
5. **PAINTS** - Use outdoor acrylic/latex paints because they will withstand the rain. There are certain brands, but use whichever you feel fit.
6. **PAINTING STEP 1**- Paint the rain barrel with a base coat. You may have to use more than one coat to cover it evenly. Let it dry completely in between coats.
7. **PAINTING STEP 2** Creativity is key. Once your base coat is on, go in with brushes to make your barrel unique. You can make murals or patterns- whatever your heart desires.
8. **POLYURETHANE** You can use Polyurethane to finish your work and keep it safe from the elements. Your painting job won't wash away and you now have a personalized rain barrel.

Adapted from:

"Painting a Plastic Rain Barrel." *Aquabarrel(R)*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Mar. 2016.