

How to Paint Your Rain Barrel

Can I paint my rain barrel?

Yes, several paint companies now carry products that can be used on plastics. One example is Krylon's "Fusion" that adheres well to a rain barrels surface. The average costs of these paints are around \$5.00 in most retail stores.

Painting tips?

Coverage:

Up to 25 ft² on a non-porous surface.

Comment: You will be able to cover a rain barrel with one can of paint, but to do a complete job I suggest buying two cans. The barrel will look better with a final spray after the first can is empty. Darker colors require more paint. It is also good to have left over paint for touch up in the future if your barrel gets scraped.

Ideal Conditions:

Well Ventilated Area
50 - 85 degrees (F) in low humidity

For Best Adhesion:

Wipe surface down with an ammonia base cleaner.

Comment: Most paint manufacturers claim that you do not have to do any preparation to the plastic but I would sand the entire barrel with a 220 grit or finer sand paper before you clean it with an ammonia based solvent. Be sure to use a sand paper that does not leave scratches. This extra step is well worth your time.

How to Paint:

Cover spigot and overflow valve with masking tape
Shake can vigorously for 2 minutes
Hold can 8 to 10 inches from surface
Spray in sweeping motion keeping even distance from surface
Begin off the surface and continue each pass off the other side
Begin by applying a thin coat and wait 30 seconds
Apply multiple thin coats to avoid runs and drips

Dry Time: Dries in 15 minutes or less

Handle after 1 hour

Re-coat:

Before 24 hours or after 7 days

Chip Resistance:

Fully chip resistant within 7 days