

Rain Barrel Painting – Prep, Prime, Paint, & Enjoy!

Allocate 3-days to prepare the barrel for decorative painting.

Steps 1 & 2 must be done immediately after the other, otherwise oils will begin to resurface on the exterior of the barrel and primer/paints may not adhere.

Suggested Supplies - Step 1

- Rain barrel
- Liquid dish soap
- Scrub brush
- Garden hose & water for rinsing
- Pail & warm water
- Vinegar (1-cup)
- Sponge
- Scraper to remove labels

Suggested Supplies - Step 2

- Hand towels (two – old, lint free)
- Sand paper (220)
- Vacuum
- Two plastic grocery bags & masking tape
- *Dupli-Color Adhesion Promoter (11-oz spray, clear; available at auto supply stores)
 - Improved Adhesion for All Paints
 - Quick-Drying Clear Primer
 - Interior/Exterior

Step 1 - Clean the Barrel (outside activity, 60°F or higher, no wind)

1. Remove the top ring (with screen) & overflow tube. Set aside; these won't be needed until decorative painting is complete.
2. Wash the outside of the barrel with warm soapy water using liquid dish soap & scrub brush.
3. Rinse with hose, removing any soap residue. May also rinse inside & bottom of barrel.
4. Remove any labels
 - any clear plastic labels peel off easily
 - the paper/plastic label of contents label is tougher, but should have softened after being scrubbed.
 - Use a scraper to break the label seal & remove (similar to wall-paper); may need to sand.
5. Wash the label areas again to remove any adhesive residue.
6. Rinse the barrel & allow to air dry (turn upside down to drain).
7. Mix equal parts of warm water & vinegar (1-cup of each should be sufficient)
8. Wipe down with vinegar/water mix using sponge.
9. Air dry. Immediately begin step 2 below.

Step 2 - Prep & Prime the Barrel after Cleaning (outside activity, 60°F or higher, no wind)

1. Using an old lint-free towel, finish drying the outside of the barrel.
2. Lightly sand the exterior of the barrel to break the surface glaze; lightly sand where labels were removed.
 - Do not try to sand the surface smooth, that is not the objective & it won't happen.
 - Surface imperfections won't be noticed after painting.
3. Using the second old lint-free towel rub over the barrel to remove sanding dust.
4. Vacuum the outside of the barrel to remove any remaining sanding dust.
5. Cover the two spigots with the plastic bags & tape secure to avoid primer spray.
6. Following label instructions, apply two coats of Dupli-Color Adhesion Promoter as a primer.
7. Allow to dry outside for 24-hrs.; no fumes should remain when brought inside for painting.

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Step 3 – Paint the Barrel (this may be done inside, using saw horses & boards to position at a comfortable height for painting).

Suggested Supplies – Step 3

- *Golden Black Gesso (16-fl oz. for two-barrels), available online from various sources or art supplier
 - Sponge paint brush (2-in.)
 - Assorted acrylic paints (2-oz bottles, Plaid® FolkArt, Outdoor/Indoor Gloss, Metallic, or regular colors)
 - the clear acrylic coating will help protect colors from fading
 - if you are looking for intense or heavily pigmented colors, I would recommend the tubes of acrylic paints as the paint is thicker & will require fewer coats of paint against a black background to achieve a richer pigment
 - Variety of artists brushes
 - *Krylon UV-Resistant Clear Acrylic Coating – Matte (moisture-resistant, non-yellowing permanent coating, UV resistant)
 - Used to seal decorative painting; apply according to label directions
 - Your creative ideas!
 - A stencil project was used for the display. Ref. <http://www.youstencil.com>, *Water Lily #6, Stencils & Pond Scenes.
1. After *Dupli-Color Adhesion Promoter (primer) has dried 24-48 hours, apply first coat of black gesso using the sponge paint brush. When finished applying the first coat, you may cover the sponge brush with plastic wrap & place in the refrigerator (it will be used again for the second coat of black gesso). Allow the first coat of black gesso to dry 24-hours.
 2. Remove the sponge brush from the refrigerator about a half-hour before needed. Apply a second coat of black gesso. Allow to dry 24-hours before beginning decorative painting.
 3. Gesso will dry to a matte finish. Acrylic paints may now be applied.
 4. When decorative painting is complete and paint has been allowed to thoroughly dry (allow 48-hrs.), apply a moisture resistant clear acrylic coating recommended for exterior use to protect the paint (*Krylon UV-Resistant Clear Acrylic Coating – Matte). This clear-coat may be re-applied each year or two to continue to protect the painted surface.