

COVERING YOUR RAIN BARREL-PAINT

Rain barrels are not always aesthetically pleasing. However, there are many ways to camouflage a rain barrel to either disguise it or make it a relevant addition to your landscape. Some of these options include paint, waterproof fabric, and wood.

Paint the barrel one solid color or make the barrel a work of art. You are only limited by your imagination. Painting the barrel one solid color allows it to be camouflaged to blend in with the background of your home, fence or landscape. Painting with stencils or free hand creates an original piece of art to add to your landscape.

Time Involved:

- Barrel Preparation time
 - 1 hour
- Paint time
 - 24 hours or more depending on paint
 - Follow paint manufacturer's recommendations

Material List:

- Soap and water
- Goof Off (helps remove all labels from barrel)
- 80 grit sandpaper
- Primer-1 can per barrel
- Paint -2-3 cans per barrel
- Clear Gloss-1 can per barrel for final coat over acrylic paint
- Painter's tape
- Paint Brushes
- Towels and/or Rags
- Paper plate or cardboard for paint palette



Rockwall County 2500 gallon poly tank painted by Master Gardeners

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Prepare the barrel:

- Use caution when maneuvering the barrel so not to damage the faucet and overflow as this could cause them to leak.
- Remove any labels and paste on barrels.
- Clean the inside and outside with a mild soap, rinse, and dry.
- Cover the faucet, insect netting, and any other parts you do not want painted with painters tape.
- If you have a removable lid that you do not want painted, remove the lid and all of its components.
- Lightly sand the outside of the barrel with 80 grit sandpaper, rinse, and dry.
- Spray barrel with primer and allow to dry per manufacturer's recommendations.



Paint the Barrel

- If applying one color, apply several coats, waiting recommended time between coats.
- If not using spray paint, apply with paint brush or roller.
- If painting a design on barrel either by free hand or stencil, then a clear coat must be sprayed over the dried design to prevent peeling and/or chipping.
- Apply your design paint thinly to avoid rips and runs. Add a second or third layer if necessary.
- Set up barrel at collection location after the paint has had time to cure, 24 to 48 hours, per manufacturer's recommendations.

Follow these same instructions to paint a large poly tank/cistern.

