

How to Paint Your Barrel



There is nothing like a blank canvas or, in this case, a blank barrel. But before you get to painting, there are a few things you need to do to ensure that your design stays on the barrel for years to come. This quick guide will walk you through all the steps you need to prepare your barrel.

- 1.** Wash the barrel (top, bottom and sides) with warm water and dish detergent. Dry with a soft cloth, and tape the faucets off with masking tape. Be sure to remove the masking tape before the paint is dry to prevent flaking.
- 2.** Sand the barrel with 220-grit sand paper. A light sanding will remove the barrel's waxy coat and give the primer something to bite.
- 3.** Wipe the barrel down with either vinegar or household ammonia. Windex works, too.
- 4.** Coat the barrel using a primer that can adhere to plastic. If you use an aerosol primer, you will need two cans for complete coverage. You must apply the primer immediately after sanding, since the surface will re-wax if left.
- 5.** Have fun and let your imagination roam! Decorate the barrel with acrylic paint, spray paint, stained glass, decoupage, exterior latex paint, sparkles, stencil or metal works. Avoid oil based paints, since they will not stick to the barrel.
- 6.** Seal the barrel with a clear top coat. Let the barrel dry before moving.

Tips:

- If you want to use a pencil to sketch your design, use a dull one: a sharp point will scratch off the primer.
- Use two or three light coats of paint. The thicker the paint, the more prone to peeling.
- When your barrel is finished, give it at least 48 hours drying time before you move it. The longer you let it dry, the better.



Athens-Clarke County
Stormwater Management Program