



## **Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council, Inc.**

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### **PAINTING YOUR RAIN BARREL**

When it comes to being creative, you're only limited by your imagination! Painting your rain barrel is not only fun, but it will also help to protect the surface of the barrel from breaking down due to the harsh effects of the sun. Painting a rain barrel is a great activity for children and can introduce them to the importance of conserving water. Outdoor acrylics and spray paint work well, but the barrel must first be primed so these materials adhere properly to the surface. A product on the market is a spray paint designed specifically for outdoor plastic furniture, but it will work on almost any plastic surface. The benefit to this product is that the barrel does not have to be primed before applying the spray paint. If using spray paint but need to paint small details, spray paint into a small cup making a liquid puddle. This paint can be brushed on.

Regardless of what type of paint you choose, it is a good idea to apply one or two coats of polyurethane to your finished barrel to protect it.



#### **To prime your rain barrel:**



1. Thoroughly clean the exterior surface of the barrel by wiping away excess dirt and grime with a clean rag soaked in a 1:1 mixture of vinegar and water.
2. Using a fine - to medium-grade sandpaper, "rough up" the surface of the barrel. This helps the paint adhere to the plastic barrel.
3. With a dry cloth, wipe the barrel again to get rid of any fine plastic shavings.
4. Apply one coat of outdoor primer. Primer is typically white, but it can be mixed with another paint color or tinted to match the final design color of the barrel. Allow the primer to dry according to the directions on the container.

Now the barrel can be painted any way you like — by stencil, a pattern, freehand, etc. Allow the paint to dry completely before applying one to two coats of polyurethane. Allow the polyurethane to dry between coats.

**NOTE:** The above information was obtained from:  
[http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/rain\\_barrels\\_guide.pdf](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/rain_barrels_guide.pdf)