

# TIPS FOR PAINTING RAIN BARRELS

1. Do not handle your barrel by the fixtures (faucet or overflow). Stressing the fixtures can cause their seals to leak.
2. Rough the surface of the barrel with a 220 grit or finer sand paper that does not leave scratches.
3. Wipe down the barrel with a one-to-one mixture of vinegar and water.
4. Apply a base coat of latex bonding primer. Krylon fusion paint is great for a base coat and can be purchased in a spray can. Use one to two cans. Choose a well-ventilated area to apply the primer. Ideally, the temperature should be between 50 - 85 degrees in low humidity.

## How to Prime your Barrel:

- 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 by applying a thin coat and wait 30 seconds
- Apply multiple thin coats to avoid runs and drips

**NOTE:** The interior should not be painted. One way of keeping splatter out of the inside is to remove the basket, wrap it with newspaper, and reinsert it. You can also choose to leave the top of your barrel its natural color and just prime the sides of the barrel.

5. When the primer is completely dry sketch your design. Use a dull pencil, as a sharp pencil will scratch off the primer.
6. Paint your design over the base coat with either an "exterior latex paint" or with regular acrylic paint. It is recommended using two to three light coats of paint, to reduce the chances of the paint sagging then dripping.
7. When your barrel is finished, it is highly recommended giving it at least 48 hours drying time before you move it, longer would be better.
8. Once your barrel is completely dry, wrap it in an old blanket to protect your artwork and email [diane.gard@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:diane.gard@dep.state.nj.us) to schedule a time for your barrel to be taken for professional clear coating.

