



Directions for Painting Rain Barrels using Krylon

Quick Overview

Krylon Fusion paint adheres fairly well to the polyethylene plastic barrels. Creative limits are that Krylon only comes in spray paint, which means designs are limited to masking and stenciling. The Krylon website offers some clever ways of using the paints. Visit www.Krylon.Com for information then click on Crafts and Decor for inspiration.

Barrel handling and prep:

- Stressing the fixtures (faucet or elbow) can cause their seals to leak. Please do not handle the barrels by fixtures, and when moving the barrels around, be careful not to kick the faucet or bump it against things.
- The interior should not be painted. One way of keeping splatter out of the inside is to remove the screen, wrap it with a small piece of newspaper, and reinsert it. Be careful to push down on the screen frame, not the screen itself, so the screen does not pull away from the frame.
- The fixtures should not be painted and must be protected from paint.
- The barrel needs to be cleaned and sanded. You must be able to apply the paint immediately after sanding, as the surface will re-wax if left.

Note: Krylon claims that you do not have to do any preparation to the plastic but I would sand the entire barrel with a 220 grit or finer sand paper before you clean it with an ammonia based solvent. Be sure to use a sand paper that does not leave scratches. This extra step is well worth your time. *Excerpt from Aaron's Rain Barrels.* Sanding was also recommended on the craft projects at Krylon.com.

Detailed Prep and Painting Tips

1. Label Removal --- For a paper label, spray it with water and let it soften, then take a scrubby sponge and scrub off all paper and adhesive. A plastic paint scraper is also helpful. Any adhesive you can feel but not see can be sanded off later.
For plastic labels --- Peel off with plastic paint scrapper. Citrusolve or a Goop type product may help for a particularly difficulty label. If you have a barrel where the label has been partially burned, you may find there is a permanent "tattoo". It may be impossible to get this off.
This can be sanded over then painted.
2. Wash barrel, top, bottom and sides with warm soapy water and dish detergent. Dry with soft cloth. With masking tape, tape off faucet and elbow. Add newspaper covering to screen (or figure out some other way to keep the paint from getting on the screen or going in the barrel.)
3. Turn the barrel upside down and sand with 220-grit sand paper (bottom up). A light sanding is all that is needed to remove the barrel's waxy coat and give the paint something to bite.
4. Wipe barrel down with either vinegar or an ammonia/water solution.

5. Follow the directions on the Krylon Fusion can.
6. Once the barrel is dry artist acrylics may be used to paint a design with good results. This was suggested by a contact at www.noahsrainbarrel.com.