

Covering Your Rain Barrel-Wood Slats

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.

Covering a rain barrel with wood slats is one quick and easy method to camouflage the barrel in the landscape. It's important to select a quality wood that will last, such as Red Wood or Cedar. Most wood slats on your barrel will gray with age just like a wood fence, so consider staining and sealing the wood before installation.

Time Involved:

- Barrel Preparation time
 - 1 hour
- Adding cedar wood slats
 - 24 hours

Material List:

- Wood slats (fencing slats work great)
- Measure the height and diameter of the barrel. This will determine how much wood is required
- Optional: Metal straps and/or rope to place around barrel for aesthetics (short wood screws may be necessary to hold metal and rope in place. Caution: be careful not to penetrate the barrel.)
- 3 to 4 foot Level
- 3 Bungee cords (secures wood slats while liquid nail dries)
- Soap and water
- Goof Off (helps remove all labels from barrel)
- 80 grit sandpaper
- Liquid Nail caulking
- Caulk Gun
- Towels and/or Rags
- Safety Glasses or shields



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.
- Lightly sand the outside of the barrel with 80 grit sandpaper, rinse, and dry.

Add Wood Slats to the Rain Barrel:

- Place the barrel on a level surface
- Measure and cut the wood slats so that the bottom of each slat rests on the flat surface and the height comes up above the top rim of the barrel and to the desired height.
- Treat the Cedar wood slats with a waterproof stain/sealer prior to installation. Be sure to treat the edges and ends of the slats after cutting. Allow to dry thoroughly per manufacturer's instructions.
- Using a level, mark vertical reference lines around the barrel at several locations with a 3 or 4 foot level to help keep the slats as straight as possible.
- Place bungee cords around barrel.
- Apply liquid nails the full length of a wood slat with the caulk gun. Slip the slat through the bungee cords and press onto the barrel. Continue this process until all slats are placed and completely surround the barrel.
- After all the slats are in place and dry, attach the galvanized metal strap or rope around the barrel using short galvanized wood screws. These are for aesthetics only.
- Allow the barrel to dry for 24 hours.



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



Kaufman County 2500 gallon demonstration

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