

WATERCOLOR : CONDENSED LIST OF SUPPLIES updated 4.2025**PAPER**

Watercolor paper comes primarily in 2 weights. 140 lb (300 gsm) and 300 lb (640 gsm).

I prefer 300 lb. Other professionals work on 140 lb

SAUNDERS, ARCHES, BOAHONG, FABRIANO best papers

I prefer rough paper, others prefer cold press. Hot press is least often used.

Paper mills offer natural white and bright white. I prefer the newer, bright whites.

I do not recommend student grade paper, definitely NOT Strathmore. You will quickly become discouraged/feel like a failure

You can buy prestretched blocks, or sheets that you tear down to 1/2, 1/4 or 1/8 sheets and clip or tape to foam core, corrugated plastic or gator board. Need white artist tape, masking tape or bull clips to do this.

BRUSHES

1 ROUND SIZE 8 or larger: Hairs of the brush can be made from Kolinsky sable, red sable or synthetic

MOPS > Round Mop or Cat's Tongue Mop > would be the second brush to invest in. The hairs can be squirrel or synthetic.

As you progress see my full list of supply recommendations.

ESCODA and DA VINCI are my preferred manufacturers of brushes.

PAINT - no student grade paints, they are a waste of money**GRAHAM, SENNELIER, DANIEL SMITH, WINSOR & NEWTON, SCHMINCKE, ISARO > ALL PROFESSIONAL GRADE**

You can select individual colors or a set of preselected colors:

See my full supply list for options for cheaper selection of paints for starting.

Colors should include similar to these:

Ultramarine Blue, Cobalt Blue, Viridian (can substitute the phthalocyanines); Reds > either cadmiums or synthetic alternatives; Yellows > either cadmiums or synthetic alternatives; Quinacrodone Violet, Permanent Rose or Helios Purple or similar; Earth pigments > Yellow Ochre, Raw Sienna, Burnt Sienna or Burnt Umber.

PALETTE, ETC

Yogurt container lids, white plastic plates, egg cartons all can be used as mixing palettes.

My favorite large white plastic palette is TOM JONES. It is very white, large wells and easy to clean.

Robert E. Wood & John Pike are classic palettes. Folding plastic and metal palettes are good.

You can find plastic folding palettes for very cheap. Metal folding palettes are very nice > some hold pans, some allow tube paints

WATER CONTAINER > you need 2, one to keep clean water

PAPER TOWELS, SPONGES OR RAGS

SKETCH PAD and PENCILS HB and or 2B

MIST BOTTLE HAIR STYLIST TYPE

EASEL

richeson-italian-steel-tripod-easel or enpleinairpro

MAIL ORDER: Dick Blick (also in Sugarhouse but limited selection), ARCH, Jackson's Art, Jerry's Artarama, Cheap Joes

K I M B E R L Y R O U S H

WATERCOLOR SUPPLIES : COMPLETE LIST updated 4.2025

PAPER

Watercolor paper comes primarily in 2 weights; 140 lb (300 gsm) and 300 lb (640 gsm).

I prefer 300 lb. Some professionals prefer 140 lb.

SAUNDERS, ARCHES, FABRIANO, HAHNEMUHLE AND BAOHONG ARE ALL GOOD MILLS

Arches is the most widely used paper.

I prefer rough paper, others prefer cold press. Hot press is least often used. Test options to find your preference.

Paper mills now offer natural white and bright white. I prefer the newer, bright whites.

You can buy pre-stretched blocks (expensive) or sheets which you cut or tear down to 1/2, 1/4 or 1/8 sheets and clip or tape to foam core, corrugated plastic or gator board. Need white artist tape, masking tape or bull clips to do this.

I normally do not recommend student grade paper, especially not Strathmore. You will quickly become discouraged.

Cheaper student grade paper is useful to warm up, practice some techniques, and create values studies. You will need professional grade paper for your final painting. Practicing the techniques on the cheaper student grade papers will create a different effect compared to when you paint the final marks on your professional paper. Thus I highly recommend testing your marks on the good paper. You can paint on both sides of your papers, particularly 300 lb. Except Hahnemuhle paper is not designed to paint on the back of their 300 lb paper making it more expensive. You can paint on both sides of their 140 lb. paper.

Note: there are some beautiful handmade papers Papelera Don Bosco from Peru (trained by Fabriano Paper makers), Twinrocker in Ohio, Two Rivers in England, St Armand in Canada. Fabriano makes a handmade paper which is quite expensive. Fabriano Museum also makes one which I have not tried. Sastres in Catalonia makes handmade papers.

BRUSHES

In order of importance

1 1 ROUND SIZE 8 or larger : I prefer larger brushes with good points : Brushes can be Kolinsky, red sable or synthetic for your round brush

2 MOPS/QUILLS : Round Mop or Cat's Tongue Mop > would be the second brush to invest in, ideally larger than your round brush : these are normally squirrel or synthetic

3 FLATS : 1 -2 inch flats for washes and hard edges > Examples: da Vinci 5080 2 inch / Richeson 7010 series :

My favorite "wipe out" brush is a Robert Simmons S55 Sapphire 1 inch : Hakes are goat hair

EXCELLENT BRUSH MAKERS : da VINCI and ESCODA

Feel free to contact me or consult my extended list of supplies if you need help investing in more expensive brushes.

PAINT

NO STUDENT GRADE PAINTS : this will waste your time and money

PROFESSIONAL GRADE PAINTS ONLY :

GRAHAM, SENNELIER, DANIEL SMITH, WINSOR & NEWTON, HOLBEIN, SCHMINCKE, ISARO

> Colors should include similar to those listed below

> You do not need all of these colors, one red, one blue, one yellow plus a few others is a good start

Learn to identify pigments by their COLOUR INDEX NUMBER. For example: Ultramarine Blue is identified as PB29.

BLUES: Ultramarine Blue, Cobalt Blue or synthetic alternative, Cerulean or Zirconium alternative, Cobalt Teal or synthetic alternative

GREENS: Viridian -- can substitute with synthetic phthalocyanine but will not be similar, make your greens!

REDS: Cadmiums or synthetic alternatives

YELLOWs: either Cadmiums, Bismuth is a safer alternative to Cadmiums, or synthetic alternatives

TRANSPARENT FOR CREATING DARKS : Quinacridone Violet, or Indigo, or phthalocyanines

PINKS: Permanent Quinacridone Rose or Helios Purple, Ultramarine Pink: check lightfastness of pink/rose family

EARTH PIGMENT OPTIONS: Raw Sienna, Yellow Ocher, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, Raw Umber, Sepia (burnt umber + black), Venetian red by Sennelier, Earth Greens

SETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM PROFESSIONAL COMPANIES WITH PRESELECTED COLORS IN A PALETTE

EASEL > OPTIONAL

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/richeson-italian-steel-tripod-easel>

An alternative which I have not tried: enpleinairpro: <https://enpleinairpro.com/collections/packages>

PALETTE, ETC

PALETTE > My favorite large white plastic palette is TOM JONES. It is very white, large wells and easy to clean.

Robert E. Wood & John Pike are classic palettes. Folding plastic and metal palettes are good.

Richeson makes a nice round palette to help understanding of the color wheel : Stephen Quiller designed

You can find plastic folding palettes for very cheap.

Porcelain butcher trays can work

WATER CONTAINER > you need 2, one to keep clean water

PAPER TOWELS, SPONGES OR RAGS

SKETCH PAD and PENCILS HB and or 2B

MIST BOTTLE hair stylist type

DRAWING OUT THE IMAGE FREE HAND IS IDEAL. AN ARTIST MUST LEARN TO DRAW WELL TO PAINT WELL.

1ST OPTION: Draw directly onto your good watercolor paper. Start lightly, plan composition prior. Erase gently.

2ND OPTION: NEED TRACING PAPER

Draw the image on good drawing paper, trace that, or draw directly onto tracing paper.

Then transfer that tracing to the good watercolor paper.

On a sunny day place the tracing on a window directly facing the sun. Hold or carefully tape the good watercolor paper on top of the tracing paper. Trace it.

You can also lay it over your watercolor paper, clip it snugly at top. Carefully and continually smooth down the tracing paper as you gently lift and trace it from below. Use caution with any tape, it will destroy the sizing (surface coating) on the watercolor paper. So that it does not look traced, go back over what you traced with your free hand way of working adding life to your lines.

MAIL ORDER:

Dick Blick ONLINE saves you money compared to Sugarhouse store: Sugarhouse store has limited selection

<https://www.dickblick.com>

<https://www.jerrysartarama.com>

<https://www.artxpress.com>

<https://www.jacksonsart.com/en-us/color/watercolor/watercolor-paint>

<https://shop.archsupplies.com/collections/watercolor-paints>