

Watercolor Basics for Beginners

Watercolor is a beautiful and expressive medium that anyone can enjoy. This guide covers the essential supplies, setup, and simple tips to help you start your watercolor journey.

Essential Supplies

- Watercolor Paper – 140lb (300gsm) cold-pressed paper is a great starting point.
- Brushes – A round brush (size 6–8) and a flat brush will cover most beginner needs.
- Paints – Start with a small set of student or artist grade paints in primary colors.
- Water Containers – One for rinsing and one for clean water.
- Palette – A simple plastic or ceramic palette for mixing colors.
- Paper Towel or Rag – Useful for blotting brushes and controlling water.

Setting Up Your Workspace

Choose a flat, well-lit space where you can spread out your materials. Keep your paints, brushes, and water within easy reach. Many artists like to angle their paper slightly on a board to help control water flow.

Beginner Tips

- Start light – build up colors gradually in layers.
- Practice water control – experiment with wet and dry brushes.
- Mix colors on your palette, not directly on the paper.
- Test colors on scrap paper before committing.
- Don't worry about perfection – enjoy the process!

With a few basic supplies and a willingness to experiment, you'll be amazed at what you can create with watercolor. The key is to practice often, embrace happy accidents, and let your creativity flow.