

Professional Watercolor Materials

Watercolor Paper

Specifications:

- 100% Cotton
- 300 gsm (140 lb) minimum; 640 gsm (300 lb) preferred

Surface Types:

- **Hot Pressed:** Not ideal for watercolor; good for tempera or mixed-media. The surface is smooth.
- **Cold Pressed:** Slightly textured surface, ideal for most watercolor techniques.
- **Rough:** Heavily textured; offers expressive brushwork and granulation effects.

Available Formats:

- **Sheets:** Versatile and great for custom sizing
- **Blocks:** Pre-stretched, glued on all sides - convenient for painting without taping
- **Pads:** Economical, good for practice
- **Rolls:** Ideal for large-scale work or custom cutting

Recommended Brands:

- Arches
- Hahnemühle
- Winsor & Newton
- Saunders Waterford
- The Langton
- Bockingford
- Fabriano Artistico,
- Baohong (Master's Choice)
- Stonehenge Aqua

Watercolor Paints

Types:

- **Tubes:** Ideal for studio work, easy to mix large quantities, rewettable in palettes.
- **Pans:** Great for portability and travel; convenient but require more water to activate.

Recommended Brands (Artist Grade):

- Schmincke Horadam
- Winsor & Newton
- Van Gogh
- Daniel Smith
- St. Petersburg (White Nights)

Suggested Colors (Core Palette):

- ✓ Alizarin Crimson or Permanent Rose
- ✓ Cadmium Yellow or Hansa Yellow
- ✓ Cadmium Red, Lemon Yellow
- ✓ Cadmium Orange
- ✓ Ultramarine Blue
- ✓ Dioxazine Purple
- ✓ Burnt Sienna
- ✓ Raw Sienna
- ✓ Burnt Umber
- ✓ Payne's Gray
- ✓ Cerulean Blue
- ✓ Cobalt Blue
- ✓ Sap Green
- ✓ Viridian

Watercolor Brushes

Types & Sizes:

- Natural Round: Sizes 1, 2, 4
- Synthetic Round: Sizes 2, 7, 8, 10
- Angled: Sizes 6, 8, 10
- Rigger or Liner: For detail work

Brush Notes:

Brushes come in natural (usually sable - excellent water retention and softness) and synthetic (affordable, durable, and animal-friendly) types. Many synthetic options now closely mimic natural hair performance.

Note: *Avoid long-handled brushes - they are meant for oil/acrylic painting and not suitable for watercolor.*

Recommended Brands:

- Da Vinci (Maestro or Casaneo)
- Raphael 8404
- Escoda (Reserva or Versatil)
- Winsor & Newton Series 7

Watercolor Palette

- Large mixing area
- Ceramic, porcelain, or enameled metal preferred (non-staining)
- Travel palettes available with pans

Water Containers

- At least two: one for clean water, one for rinsing

Masking Supplies

- Masking fluid (Winsor & Newton or Pebeo)

Drawing & Sketching Tools

- HB or 2HB Pencil
- Kneaded Eraser

Miscellaneous

- **Spray Bottle:** Use a fine mist bottle - it should spray water like a soft powder mist, great for keeping paints moist or creating texture.
- **Mounting Board & Paper Tape:** If using loose sheets (not blocks), use a sturdy board (like gatorboard or wood) and paper/artist tape to secure and stretch the paper.
- **Sketchbook:** Optional, for planning and fieldwork
- **Paper Towels**